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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Which tandem will you vote for in the runoff election?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of November 12, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Close Eye
This holiday season, many travelers will be able to keep a close eye on home.
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Taylor Wins
It's been Taylor Swift's year, and Wednesday's Country Music Association Awards was her night.
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IT&E buys Shell in NMI, Guam, Palau

Formal takeover in early 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IT&E signed yesterday an agreement to finalize its purchase of Shell assets in the CNMI, Guam and Palau for an undisclosed amount, IT&E president and chief executive officer Jose Ricardo Delgado said.

The multi-million deal is still subject to regulatory approvals and consent, according to Shell in a separate statement.

The Delgado family's purchase of Shell Guam Inc. and Shell Co. (Pacific Islands) Ltd. comes just four years after they bought MTC from Verizon in 2005, later renaming it PTI and then IT&E, now the largest telecommunications firm in the CNMI and Guam.

See SHELL on Page 4

In this file photo, an employee of a Shell service station walks past their price displays after a 10-cent price rollback. IT&E yesterday signed the agreement that seals its purchase of Shell assets in the CNMI, Guam and Palau. Inset shows a frame grab of IT&E president and chief executive officer Ricky Delgado as he announced in a video conference yesterday's signing of the agreement. This brings the Delgado family's investment in the region to some $150 million since 2005 when it bought MTC from Verizon, later naming it PTI then IT&E.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Camacho, other independents back Fitial-Inos

Camacho

'Kumoi' yet to announce team to support

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

BOTA 2009

Former independent lieutenant governor candidate Joseph C. Camacho and key members of the Executive Committee to Elect Juan Pan and Joe Camacho threw their support behind Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos of the Covenant Party yesterday.

Camacho's brother, Clyde

See CAMACHO on Page 4

Over 2K ballots for runoff mailed out

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission mailed out yesterday over 2,000 absentee ballots for the upcoming runoff election.

Pursuant to law, the commission has only up to today to mail the ballots for them to be deemed valid in the next election.

CEC executive director Robert

See BALLOTS on Page 4

Air Saipan eyes NMI operation in 2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A ranking official of a fledgling airline company has disclosed plans to open a new airline in the CNMI that aims to employ about 60 individuals on the islands who will begin training in January next year.

Dean Mills, chief executive officer of the New Era Group/Air Saipan, emphasized the company's commitment to pursue its busi-

See AIR SAIPAN on Page 4

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Local

FOR EDUCATION MONTH CELEBRATION:

Camacho, Mostales, Hocog, Ebilane are DES' awardees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four individuals were named outstanding personnel of Dandan Elementary School this year: Ma. Theresa Camacho, Joey Mostales, Ruby Hocog, and Nelson Ebilane.

The four will vie for the Public School System's islandwide search for Teacher of the Year, Teacher Aide of the Year, and Support Staff of the Year awards, where over 60 candidates from 20 public schools will be competing.

Camacho, 45, who began teaching first graders in Dandan in 1999, was adjudged the school's Teacher of the Year.

She was thrice nominated for the honor in her school but successfully bagged the recognition for the first time this year.

"I am very happy and honored," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Compared to other careers, Camacho said, her profession is one of the most challenging yet fulfilling jobs.

"You're not only dealing with students…but with the parents too. Our duty is beyond the writing and reading skills but also developing their behavior," she said.

In her nearly 10 years of service to Dandan, Camacho has been involved in numerous school leadership roles and extra-curricular activities that support student learning. She is also active in the Parents Teachers and Students Association.

Besides being a mentor, Camacho said she also plays the role of a friend to each and every student in her class.

"I want them all to succeed… that's my ultimate goal," said the mother of two.

MA. TESS CAMACHO
Teacher of the Year

JOEY MOSTALES
Teacher Aide of the Year

NELSON EBILANE
Support Staff of the Year-Maintenance

RUBY DLC. HOCOG
Support Staff of the Year-Admin.

Teacher Aide of the Year

Named Teacher Aide of the Year for Dandan is Joey Mostales, who currently serves under the Troops-to-Teachers program of PSS. He has been with the school for three years now.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mostales is active in numerous school programs and activities such as the Primary Grade Forensic Competition, Science Fair, and the Math Court competitions.

Hailed as the school's Support Staff of the Year awardees are Ruby Hocog and Nelson Ebilane.

Hocog was chosen among employees at the administration while Ebilane hails from the maintenance department.

Hocog has been with DES for about eight years while Ebilane has been an employee for 13 years now. Hocog, according to the school and her colleagues, is always willing to help others and is available and approachable to members of the faculty and students.

Ebilane, meantime, was lauded for his volunteer work and assistance beyond the call of duty.

Dandan school is under the supervision of acting principal Martha Kintol.

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Lawsuit claims Mobil, Shell engaged in price fixing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A class action suit was filed in the CNMI Superior Court yesterday against Mobil and Shell for allegedly colluding to fix fuel prices in the Commonwealth.

Rabby F. Syed, Jose P. Kiyoshi, and Felipe Q. Atalig accused Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. (Mobil) and Mariana Acquisition Corp. (Shell) of false advertisement, unfair or deceptive business practices, and fraud.

When asked for comments about the lawsuit, Shell retail area manager Jeff Boyer said they have not seen the complaint.

"We obviously can't comment on anything that we don't know about," Boyer said.

Messages left with a Mobil representative were not returned as of press time.

Syed, Kiyoshi, and Atalig, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, asked the Superior Court to stop Mobil and Shell and their agents from allegedly engaging in anti-competitive and price-fixing activities.

The three also asked the court to stop the two oil firms from entering into an agreement where one would source their petroleum products from the other and from adopting a uniform formula for computing their sale prices.

The three also asked the court to prevent the two oil giants from entering into an agreement to fix uniform freight charges, quantity discounts, or other differentials that affect actual selling price.

"[These] activities stifle free competition and free pricing determination, thereby prejudicing the plaintiffs and class members," the complaint stated.

The plaintiffs are asking for an award of damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Quichocho said the class action is being filed on behalf of persons who bought regular unleaded gasoline from either Shell or Mobil from November 2000 up to the filing of the case yesterday.

Quichocho alleged that since Mobil and Shell began their respective operations in 1985 and 1982 in the CNMI, they have built a monopoly in the fuel supply industry as there have been no other fuel suppliers in the Commonwealth.

He said Mobil and Shell determine and fix the selling price to consumers of motor fuel and other petroleum products sold at the gasoline service stations.

The lawyer said the two companies require their gasoline service stations to operate in a particular manner, including requiring franchises, among others, to use only pre-designed advertisement signs as approved by the defendants.

Quichocho said the two companies have an agreement where one would source out its regular unleaded gasoline from the other company.

The two have an agreement to fix a uniform price for regular unleaded gasoline, he said, and charged consumers with such price, regardless of the prevailing market conditions, their respective cost of products acquisition, and independent market forces.

"Mobil Oil and Shell Marianas…continue the practice of changing prices of regular unleaded gasoline at the same time, or almost the same time, or within hours of each other at supposedly competing locations that sell supposedly competing brands of motor fuel and petroleum products," Quichocho said.

As a result of this anti-competitive conduct and price-fixing activities, he said, consumers paid artificially inflated prices for regular unleaded gasoline, and as a result have suffered injury to their business or property.

"The cartel at issue in this complaint will be strengthened, and defendants' anti-competitive and illegal price-fixing activities will be facilitated, if defendants are allowed to continue to participate in the cartel," he said.

He said Mobil and Shell falsely advertise that a gallon of motor fuel can be bought at the advertised price, when consumers are actually being made to pay a price that is rounded up to the next whole cent.

As an illustration, Quichocho said the current price of regular unleaded gasoline is $3.479 per gallon.

"When one carefully pumps exactly one gallon up to the third decimal point, i.e., 1.000, the gas pump report for the gallon of gasoline purchased would be not $3.479 but $3.48," he said.

Quichocho said defendants use a rounding scheme that rounds up more often than it rounds down, when defendants have the ability to use, and could use a rounding scheme that fairly rounds to the next whole cent.

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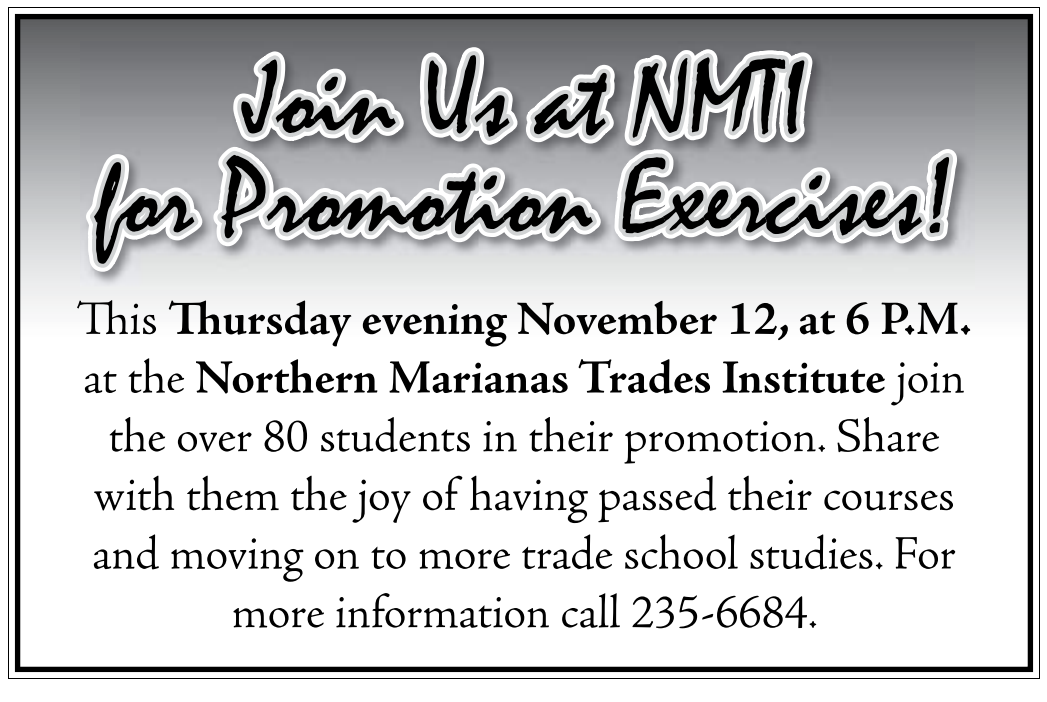
Again, thank you so much and God bless.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DPS trains traffic cops on riding motorcycles

Four Department of Public Safety traffic police officers, including a policewoman, are undergoing training on how to properly ride a motorcycle.

Sgt. Paul Ogumoro and Police Officers 1 Maverick Saures, Namhoon Kwon, and Raquel Ogumoro began the training on Monday. They are expected to receive their certification today, Friday.

Sgt. Anthony Macaranas and Police Officer 2 Daniel Smith, who are both certified in Florida as motorcycle trainers, conducted the weeklong training near the Saipan airport.

"It's all about safety," Smith said, adding that they teach officers the different maneuvers to make them comfortable in driving motorcycles.

Smith said that learning different techniques in maneuvering motorcycles builds the officers' confidence and develops driving coordination.

Macaranas said that driving motorcycles is similar to riding bicycles.

"It's a liability if we don't train our officers. It's a big liability. So we try to minimize the liability by training them, making sure that these are the things that we should be doing and these are the things that we should not be doing," Macaranas said.

He said the officers are progressing slowly but are expected to do well by the end of the week.

Officer Raquel Ogumoro, who has been with DPS for almost three years now, said that driving a motorcycle is a good challenge and difficult if one has never been on one before.

"I'm trying to get in little by little," she said.

Traffic Section handles enforcement, education program, checkpoints, presentation, and other traffic enforcement activities. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BALLOTS

From Page 1

Guerrero said the agency did not receive any new requests for absentee ballots after the Nov. 7 general election.

"So what we have in the general election is the same number we will have for the runoff," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Because changes were made only on the number of candidates on the ballots—which now feature the names of just Covenant Party standard bearers Benigno Fitial and Eloy Inos and GOP's Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios—the same number of poll workers will be tapped for the runoff.

Guerrero said over 150 workers will still be assigned to polling places on three islands and the same number of machines will be used in the counting and tabulation procedures.

"We're pretty much set for the runoff," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Nine individuals—three poll workers, three poll supervisors, and 3 confined workers—will man each polling station.

Because each poll worker was paid at the $50 level in the past, Guerrero said the same amount was recommended for this year's election. He admitted, however, that this is also based upon the availability of funds.

The runoff is scheduled on Nov. 23. This came about after no candidate in the four-way gubernatorial race garnered a majority of votes.

This year's general election drew a total of 13,784 voters to the polls, which is 86 percent of the number of registered voters in the Commonwealth.

According to the Election Commission Web site, there are 16,108 registered voters on three islands, including over 2,000 absentee voters.

This year's turnout is lower than the 2005 gubernatorial election, when 93 percent or 12,511 voters cast their votes.

Recount

Today, the Election Commission board will reconvene for the recount being requested by the Covenant Party's mayoral candidate for the Northern Islands, Ramona Rebuenog, who was defeated by independent opponent Tobias Aldan by just one vote.

Election board chair Frances Sablan said yesterday that only the "recount" is on the meeting's agenda.

Sablan and Guerrero both said the agency and the board have not received any "formal" complaint or letter of concern relating to the board's decision on the four initiatives on the ballot, which were not ratified.

Rep. Tina Sablan, author of the Open Government Act popular initiative, told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday that she will challenge the commission's decision on the initiatives. She is expected to attend today's meeting.

Frances Sablan said the board's decision on the initiatives stands.

When asked about the possibility of the board reconsidering its decision, she said: "It goes down to the interpretation of the law. I know that there are some who are siding with the old law and some with the new law…but there are some parts of the new law that cancelled out the old law, which was the basis of our decision," Frances Sablan said.

However, she said that she is interested in hearing a different interpretation of the law.

"Our legal counsel is seriously looking into it. …However, we haven't seen a black and white on this," she said.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

Norita, who was chairman of the Executive Committee to Elect Juan Pan and Joe Camacho, is now also supporting the Fitial-Inos camp.

Gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero, who ran with Camacho, could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The Fitial-Inos team will be facing off with the Republican tandem of Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and Speaker Arnold I. Palacios in the CNMI's first gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 23.

Both Hofschneider and Fitial earlier separately said they are confident they will be able to get the support of independent candidates and supporters.

'Kumoi'

Another independent gubernatorial candidate, former senator Ramon "Kumoi" S. Deleon Guerrero, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he has yet to make a decision on whom to support between Fitial and Hofschneider.

"I cannot make a comment at this time. My supporters met last night, but I have yet to meet with my Rota supporters. After my meeting with my Rota supporters, then that's the time I can make an announcement," Deleon Guerrero said in a telephone interview.

Deleon Guerrero ranked fourth in the four-way gubernatorial race on Nov. 7. Guerrero ranked third.

A runoff election will be held because neither Fitial nor Hofschneider got at least 50 percent plus 1 of the votes cast in Saturday's general elections.

Hofschneider beat Fitial by eight votes in Saturday's elections, 4,900-4,982, marking the closest gubernatorial race in CNMI history.

Independents' support

Camacho, in a statement sent last night, said the Fitial-Inos team's "success in navigating the constantly changing economic times demonstrates proven leadership."

"Today, I am proud to announce my strong support for the team of Ben Fitial and Eloy Inos. As a firm believer that the private sector is the force behind economic growth, the team of Ben and Eloy has the best plans and ideas regarding how to improve our financial well-being," said Camacho, the current House Floor Leader.

He said the Covenant team "understands the need to diversify our economic base by encouraging and recruiting new businesses to our Commonwealth. Without Ben's and Eloy's proven experience in the Governor's Office, I am fearful that all progress will be halted and our Commonwealth will suffer."

Other winning and losing independent candidates have also pledged support to the Covenant team.

They include Rep.-elect Fred P. Deleon Guerrero, and Rep.-elect George N. Camacho.

Former independent candidates Mike A. Camacho, Victoria T. Guerrero, and Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz are also supporting the team.

Last night, Camacho and other independent candidates held a meeting in Tanapag to formally launch their support for the Covenant team.

The Republicans advocate "change in leadership," while the Covenants say they have "proven leadership."

AIR SAIPAN

From Page 1

ness plans here in an e-mail message to the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Air Saipan first tried to set up and operate an airline based out of Saipan in 2006. However, its plans were pushed back due to rising fuel prices, difficulties with aircraft maintenance problems, and the fact the company was undercapitalized.

This time around, Mills said, they have substantial capital and substantial backers, especially in the Chinese outbound market, to realize the project. He disclosed that the company has $10 million capital so far, which will increase up to $20 million prior to its launch.

Mills admitted that they are reluctant to make too many promises just yet as the airline firm is still considering the type of plane it will use, and if the company will have a backup aircraft on the island.

"We are still undecided whether we will fly under the banner of Air Saipan or Air Saipan in joint venture with another carrier," Mills said.

Initially, Air Saipan flights will be chartered and will operate out of Guangzhou and Shanghai and a possible Cairns flight in 2011, he said.

"We will be applying for scheduled rights with our consultants during the first year of operations," Mills said, adding that the company is also in the final stages of negotiations with Lufthansa consultancy to be its consultant from now until the launch in 2010.

Mills described Lufthansa as one of the best support consultants in the world for the aviation business.

Saipan Tribune learned that the company's officials had previously talked to the island's ground handlers, hotels, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio was out of the office when contacted by *Saipan Tribune* for comments.

The official said that apart from the mid-haul flights in Asia, they are also considering buying a couple of jet streams, one for private charters and the other to offer air taxi service to the other islands.

More details about the business will be revealed during the upcoming visit of company officials later this month or early next month.

The CNMI has only two signatory airlines at present: Asiana and Northwest Airlines. Both cater to Japanese, Chinese, and Korean tourism markets.

SHELL

From Page 1

With the purchase of Shell assets in Micronesia, the Delgado family would have invested some $150 million in the region since 2005.

Delgado, in a video conference with Saipan media at the IT&E office in Chalan Laulau, said the purchase will diversify their company's investments in the region.

He said their formal takeover will be sometime in the first quarter of 2010.

"I'm obviously very excited about this transaction. As I've said, this is something we've been working on for a long time. I think it brings diversification to our investments in Micronesia," said Delgado, who was in Guam yesterday.

Greg Fisher, general manager of Shell's Asia Pacific Portfolio Projects, signed the agreement on behalf of Shell.

Delgado said he could not disclose the purchase price.

"I cannot give you a ballpark figure. I'm on a very tight non-disclosure agreement," he said.

IT&E is also expanding its call center in Susupe, the first business of its kind in the CNMI.

'Shell brand remains'

Delgado said the world-renowned brand name "Shell" will remain for several years.

"It's a company that has a DNA of Shell, which is a [known] gas company in the world, and I don't intend to tamper with that DNA. I want simply this company to be a focused operator and to improve its customer service. Just like when we took over MTC from Verizon, it's a very good company already and I would like to believe that we've been able to improve it so we will focus definitely on service," he added.

However, the gas stations will be called IP&E, or Island Petroleum and Energy, under IP&E Holdings LLC.

IP&E Holdings LLC is a subsidiary of Prospector Investments Ltd., a member of the Delgado Group of Companies that includes Citadel Holdings in the Philippines.

The Delgado group owns a diversified private equity holding and management company that had its beginnings in the petroleum industry as far back as the 1940s. Today, it has investments in aviation services, logistics solutions, telecommunications, and fuels and lubricants supply and marketing.

Delgado said they have been planning and working on buying Shell assets in the region since 2006.

The purchase was finalized yesterday with the official signing of the purchase agreement.

Delgado said fuel is likely to be purchased from Singapore as Shell does today.

Employees to be retained

Delgado said just like when they purchased MTC, IT&E will retain the over 100 present Shell employees in the CNMI, Guam and Palau.

There are 28 Shell service stations that are part of the purchase deal, eight of them on Saipan.

"We are going to keep all the employees just like,…when we took over MTC. We've certainly grown the company and added people from all walks of life, all countries, like Kathryn Barry and Rob Harrell. We've added many executives as we've grown the company, so obviously we're going to try to bring extra expertise as it is needed as this company [Shell] grows," Delgado added.

He said employees will be retained, but the company will be bringing in senior level managers "to represent our interest on a day-to-day basis but we're going to leave the present team alone."

IT&E's purchase of Shell came months after speculations that the fuel giant's assets in Micronesia will be sold to the Honolulu-based Aloha Petroleum Ltd.

In a separate statement, Shell said the deal follows review by Shell of its downstream marketing businesses in Guam, Saipan and Palau, and is consistent with the company's strategy.

The agreement covers the sale of Shell's retail, commercial and aviation business owned by Shell Guam Inc. and Shell Co. (Pacific Islands) Ltd.

Delgado said Shell supplies fuel at the Guam airport, but not on Saipan. The purchase includes Shell's oil depot in Lower Base.

Under the terms of the deal, the retail network will remain Shell-branded through Trademark Licensing Agreements, while aviation will be serviced through an Aviation Technical Services Agreement

Under separate agreements, the buyer will also be appointed as distributor of Shell-branded lubricants and servicing Shell Marine Product customers for the region.

"The decision by Shell to move to a distributor model…follows a number of similar deals in other countries. The agreement is also subject to regulatory clearance," Shell said.

Shell is the world's largest single branded fuels retailer with some 46,000 service stations worldwide and operations in some 90 countries and territories around the world.

Investor confidence

Jim Arenovski, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said the business group welcomes the Delgado family's confidence in the CNMI.

"From the Chamber's standpoint, we welcome anybody who wants to invest in the CNMI. We welcome and appreciate the confidence of the Delgados in the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Arenovski is co-owner of Delta Management Corp.-Saipan, which operates three Shell gas stations on the island. He declined to comment further on the IT&E purchase of Shell assets in the region other than saying the business deal is "very positive" for both the CNMI and Guam.

'Alien workers with labor cases eligible for umbrella permits'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled yesterday that all alien workers who have pending labor cases in court are eligible to obtain the two-year transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits."

Wiseman issued the ruling as a result of a consensus reached between the CNMI Department of Labor, the Labor Administrative Hearing Office, the Office of the Attorney General, and counsel for Zheng Hua Chang and co-complainants as well as other lawyers for alien workers who have pending labor cases in court.

In issuing the order, the judge recognized the necessity of the issuance of the "umbrella permits" for aliens who have pending judicial review or administrative appeals involving Labor before the court.

Wiseman said those eligible for "umbrella permits" are aliens lawfully admitted to the CNMI and who now hold or formerly held an entry permit issued under Immigration Category 240K, formerly called 706K (contract workers).

Wiseman said these workers have a pending petition for judicial review stemming from a Labor decision in which property or other interests of the aliens are to be determined.

The judge directed Labor to issue 240K "umbrella permits" to these aliens upon request and appropriate documentation.

The judge, however, clarified that the status and authorization granted by his order is subject to revocation by Labor.

He ordered the Attorney General to prepare and certify a list of persons who have pending cases and eligible for "umbrella permits."

Wiseman said the OAG shall circulate that list together with his order to each lawyer who is representing these alien workers.

Wiseman said any objections to the OAG's list will be heard at a status conference that will be scheduled later.

He said the final list shall be delivered by the OAG to the Labor Administrative Hearing Office no later than 2pm on Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, so that issuance of these permits can proceed in an orderly manner before the Nov. 27, 2009 deadline.

Wiseman said his order shall have no effect on the litigation of pending judicial review cases.

The judge noted that Public Law 15-108 gives Labor jurisdiction over employment authorization of most aliens in the CNMI.

He said any foreign worker who does not have an "umbrella permit" before the transition program's effective date will have no protection offered by Public Law 110-229.

The CNMI has adopted a protocol for transition and related programs and procedures for documenting the status of aliens in the CNMI prior to the scheduled transfer of immigration control to the federal government, including the "umbrella permit."

Further, Wiseman said, an alien has a recognized due process right under CNMI law to remain in the Commonwealth to pursue his case, and is thus "lawfully present" in the Commonwealth during that time.

With respect to the specific pending case filed by Zheng Hua Chang and others against a defunct garment factory, Wiseman said pursuant to the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007, the workers' petition for judicial review is pending before his court.

Wiseman said there is no suggestion or indication that the petitioners' claims are frivolous or made in bad faith.

The workers' requested for the issuance of such umbrella permits.

Wiseman said Temporary Work Authorizations for aliens with pending matters in the courts is also consistent with Public Law 15-108.

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Tinian CUC resident chief pleads not guilty

Tinian Commonwealth Utilities Corp. resident director Edward Quichocho has pleaded not guilty to charges that he is involved in trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Quichocho, 50, pleaded not guilty to one count of distribution of a controlled substance and to one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

Attorney Michael Dotts is representing Quichocho in the case. The lawyer asked the court to allow his client to post bail.

During a hearing on Tuesday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman set the jury trial for Jan. 11, 2010, at 9am.

Wiseman also imposed no bail at that time. He also granted Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto's motion to unseal the case.

A bail hearing was set for yesterday afternoon.

According to the indictment, Quichocho distributed .037 actual grams of "ice" on April 19, 2008.

Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested the CUC official on Tinian Tuesday. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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DPH: Hospital's ICU is short of special supplies

Four rooms need to be expanded

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center's intensive care unit is currently short of special supplies for close monitoring of all patients, according to documents submitted by the Department of Public Health to the Legislature during a series of public hearings being conducted on DPH.

Besides this, the unit also has not enough space to effectively and efficiently function to address patients' needs, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

At present, the ICU has four rooms and hospital officials said this is not sufficient. The department is urging the unit's expansion with the acquisition of more funding.

"In order to operate more efficiently, the ICU would benefit from an additional four rooms," the DPH documents stated. The report was signed by then acting Health Secretary Pete Untalan.

DPH also described the current supplies available at the unit as "inadequate."

The ICU, Saipan Tribune learned, requires certain special supplies for close monitoring of patients such as monitors, electronic beds, new EKG machines, more in-services, and journals to keep staff up to date with new and current trends.

However, these types of equipment are not sufficiently available at the unit up to this time.

Documents showed that there are nine employees assigned at the intensive care unit. The longest staff member has been there for four years while the newest is about a few months. All nine are full-time employees. However, DPH admitted that the number is not enough to effectively do the job at ICU.

"Currently, there are seven full-time employees. If the ICU employed another seven full-time employees, it would take care of [all the patients]," the document stated.

The same problems—lack of supplies, medical staff, and other needs—are also evident in other important divisions of the hospital.

In the emergency room, there are also only three full-time doctors seeing maximum of 30 patients in 12-hour shift.

Because of the current situation at the only public hospital on island, the government has declared the facility under a state of emergency.

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Senators ask MPLT to waive loan conditions

By Haidee V. Eugenio
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian Legislative Delegation asked the Marianas Public Lands Trust to waive conditions on the Tinian municipality's $1 million loan request with MPLT, including the "unreasonably stringent" conditions for default and pledging of local pachinko and poker tax revenues.

Sen. Joseph M. Mendiola (Cov-Tinian), chairman of the delegation, said while the delegation agrees with the investment in principle, it cannot proceed with the proposed terms and conditions due to "several serious concerns."

The delegation chairman said if "obstacles" are not present in the investment package, and if MPLT can address the delegation's concerns, they will enter into further discussions and proceed with the investment as soon as possible.

"We hope that MPLT is open to discussing these legally questionable and unrealistic terms and conditions," Mendiola told MPLT chairman Phillip Mendiola-Long in a two-page letter dated Nov. 3.

MPLT trustee Vianney Hocog yesterday said he has not seen a copy of the letter, addressed to the board chairman, but the board will convene soon.

"As a trustee, I will keep the loan conditions," he said.

Mendiola-Long and other MPLT trustees could not be reached for comment.

The loan terms and conditions are contained in MPLT Resolution 09-07.

They include an 11 percent annual interest on the loan for five years or 60 months, and a reserve account of at least $2.5 million each year.

But two days after the delegation sent a letter to MPLT, Senate legal counsel Ian Catlett issued a Nov. 5 legal opinion on Tinian Local Bill 16-3, addressed to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

The opinion said the local bill, which the Tinian Legislative Delegation passed and later signed into local law by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, is unconstitutional and that the delegation acted beyond its legal authority passing it.

It also said the bill "creates a public debt that is not authorized in accordance with the Constitution and is intended to be used for an unconstitutional purpose."

Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas, when earlier asked for comment, said Tinian will pursue the $1 million loan request with MPLT despite the legal opinion which he said is not a "court ruling."

Mendiola, in his letter addressed to MPLT chairman Phillip Mendiola-Long, said the delegation cannot proceed and meet the condition that the delegation must deliver to MPLT a written legal opinion and analysis confirming the Tinian municipality's authority to engage in the loan and investment by MPLT and that the proposed conditions are legal.

Mendiola said it is "improper" for the MPLT trustees to seek the legal advice of the delegation's own counsel.

He said requiring the delegation to turn over to MPLT the legal opinion and analysis of its legal counsel is akin to giving up attorney-client confidentiality privilege.

Mendiola and the Tinian municipality said they sought a legal opinion on the loan from Lucy Blanco-Maratita.

Revenue pledge

Mendiola said the delegation cannot proceed with the pledging of the local pachinko/poker tax revenues as it is not revenue contemplated under Tinian Local Law 16-2, which the delegation passed as Tinian Local Bill 16-3.

"The local law clearly excludes the pachinko/poker revenue because, due to the considerably smaller investment than was previously anticipated, the delegation decided not to include such revenue as a pledge for the investment," Mendiola told Mendiola-Long.

The delegation chairman also said the requirement of depositing all local pachinko and poker fees into the trust account cannot be met since the Tinian municipality is not in a position to receive such revenues.

The CNMI Department of Finance is the legal entity that receives and manages this revenue and, as such, only upon appropriation that these funds may be obtained by the municipality, he added.

Unreasonably stringent

Mendiola said MPLT's conditions for default are "so unreasonably stringent," putting the Tinian municipality on the path to failure from the beginning.

"For example, by conditioning the investment on actions of other parties (such as any government agency or the Legislature), the default could reasonably materialize if the government should decide to abolish the poker industry in the CNMI," he added.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 13, 2000

Gov't sues couple for neglecting guest worker

The CNMI government has filed a civil suit before the Superior Court against Juan and Vivian Lizama for refusing to pay the back wages of their former Filipino housemaid Benedicta Alvear who had died of cancer. According to the civil complaint filed through Assistant Attorney General Celeste Andersen, the Lizama couple also failed to pay the nonresident worker 's medical bills, failure to comply with Employment Standards, violation of the Minimum Wage and Hour Act and noncompliance with the order of DOLI's hearing officer. Alvear originally worked for Magdalena Lizama when she came here came to Saipan in November 1994 until the death of her employer on Aug. 5, 1995.

Judicial College eyes NMI as regional training center

With its modern court facilities and well-trained judges and justices, Saipan may soon become the site of a regional training center for the judiciary. Two representatives from the National Judicial College, Peggy Vidal, international manager, and Wyoming Judge Michael Lamp were sent here by the Ninth Circuit Court for an exploratory visit last week. "You have a very impressive court house, you have the technical expertise and well trained judges and justices," said Ms. Vidal. Based in Reno, Nevada, the Judicial College trains 3,000 judges all over the world every year for the past 37 years including Russia and Eastern Europe. It has also conducted a lot of training for native American trial court judges and court personnel.

Nov. 13, 2001

HUD gives NMI a second look

The Washington DC-based Department of Housing and Urban Development has been prompted to review its earlier decision not to implement a mortgage insurance program in the CNMI after a recent teleconference that showed up its lack of adequate information on the state of the housing industry in the Commonwealth. The HUD headquarters is now going over materials and data provided its office by Rep. William S. Torres, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Bank of Hawaii, with the end view of determining whether there is enough borrowing demand in the CNMI to support the Federal Housing Administration's mortgage insurance program.

Yuletide hoped to bring life to poor sale figures

If it is any consolation, a local establishment has reported a steady increase on the sale of Christmas decor and trimmings—the first positive news heard from the business sector since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the US. At the same time, local stores selling Christmas ornaments have also raised hopes that their sales will grow during the holiday season. This early, they have already reported a good number of people frequenting their stores. The National Office Supply, the SM Mart, and the Ace Hardware are only three of the several stores on Saipan that have started selling Christmas ornaments.

Nov. 13, 2002

Admin-House showdown looms

In terse language that drew attention to his opposition to the bill, Gov. Juan N. Babauta vetoed House Bill 13-126, setting the stage for another possible confrontation with the House of Representatives, which had earlier vowed to override any veto on the measure. In his transmittal letter to the Legislature, Babauta did not cite any specific reason for the veto action, besides merely saying he is taking this action based on the comments and legal analysis made by the Office of the Attorney General on House Bill 13-126. The measure was supposed to correct the "defects" of Public Law 13-1, with the end-result of bringing the Office of Personnel Management back under the Civil Service Commission and declaring government posts higher than division directors as civil service-exempt positions.

'Why are we not surprised?'

Gov. Juan N. Babauta's veto on House Bill 13-126—the bill drafted to correct ambiguities on Public Law 13-1—came as no surprise to most Legislature members. But immediate reactions from some House and Senate members came in the form of a question: What is the rationale behind the veto? The Governor, in a transmittal letter addressed to the Legislature, indicated that his decision to reject HB 13-126 was due to the legal analysis issued by the Office of the Attorney General.

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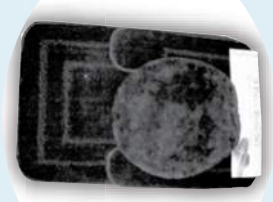

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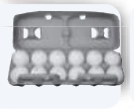

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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Healing our troubled vets

In 1944, as Congress contemplated legislation to provide millions of returning World War II veterans with the opportunity for free college educations or vocational training, the University of Chicago's president, Robert Maynard Hutchins, worried that it would bring pressure on institutions of higher learning to accept huge numbers of unqualified students. "Colleges and universities will find themselves converted into educational hobo jungles," he warned. Fortunately, Congress ignored that distinguished educator (as well as some others with similar concerns) and passed the GI Bill.

In the years that followed, the nation's campuses found themselves accommodating not the army of "educational hobos" Mr. Hutchins feared but rather some of the most mature and serious-minded freshmen they had ever seen, and in large numbers. Military veterans, many of whom had spent their "college years" at war, were determined to make up for lost time. Hundreds of thousands who had never expected to have this sort of education or training were able to gain the skills needed to advance themselves and serve the country's needs in the postwar years. The GI Bill was a sort of domestic Marshall Plan, helping to renew and refresh America (and even to alleviate the plight of African American veterans of the segregated military, a sizable percentage of whom took advantage of the bill's educational and housing provisions.)

The GI Bill, revised and extended over the years, has continued to serve those who serve the country. But as the military has shrunk, the stresses and demands it places on many of its members have increased, and the toll of war on both body and mind has come to be better understood. The needs are clearer today, and in some ways much greater than in the past. Among them are not just education but rehabilitation, including more counseling and psychiatric help for many veterans still coping with the trauma of warfare. The resources for providing this sort of help are stretched thin. The same fiscal concerns that were voiced when the original GI Bill passed are still operative, the inefficiencies and inadequacies as troubling as always in government programs. But when it comes to "priorities," this one has to be at the top.

Americans haven't always done well by their veterans. After the Civil War, maimed ex-soldiers were often seen selling pencils and shoestrings on city streets. When the Depression struck, World War I veterans marched on Washington demanding early payment of a promised bonus, and were dispersed, with bloodshed, by their own Army.

Today veterans are much honored and better cared for than in the past. But their unemployment rate is higher than that of the rest of society, and the difficulties of readjustment to everyday life still trouble many of them. These are concerns that go beyond the reach of government to the understanding and commitment of individuals and entire communities, with the hope being the same one that inspired creators of the GI Bill 65 years ago: providing veterans the opportunity to better themselves and their country.

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Letter to the Editor

Questions

I have not entered into the debate regarding the "Covenant" or questions regarding "sovereignty" or application of the "Administrative Procedures Act" as yet for two main reasons: 1) I have not yet felt as though I were well educated on the intricacies of such, even as many of you who write seem to regard yourselves as "experts" by presence, and 2) it seems that anyone who does enter the debate winds up being sliced and diced by the more or less "extremist" comments and letters that inevitably gush forth from same said "experts."

However, realizing that I might as well be sliced and diced the same as those who have preceded, I would like to ask a question, especially of Mr. Del Rosario Jr., whose frequent forays into personal attacks, at the expense of factual information, exemplify that which has kept me away.

Mr. Del Rosario Jr., you have used the term "sovereignty" in reference to the Mariana Islands repeatedly and much of your argument revolves almost exclusively around the term as reason that the federal government should have no control over the "right" of self-governance as a "sovereign" nation. This letter, and my question, is not to express *any* belief on my part as to the veracity of any point of view on the issue. If you would, however, please explain to me exactly when, if ever, the people of the Mariana Islands were a "sovereign" nation and, therefore, lend at least some modicum of credit to your assertion that the federal government is taking something away from you.

The ancient Chamorro originally came to the Marianas from the Malay Peninsula in the vicinity of the Borneo archipelago about 3,500 years ago—and thus took up residence as tribal units throughout the area. Not exactly a "sovereign" nation as each "tribe" lived (and prospered) under its own rules in its own area, sometimes an island or even part of an island. Then came the Spanish conquest in the early 16th century—and general resettlement. The Spanish united the various islands and their "tribes" under a "sovereign" nation (Spain), which lasted until 1899 when the Germans took over. Of note here is the first Carolinian settlement around 1815—they did *not* "mix" with the Chamorro population and also fell under Spanish "sovereignty." Germany was given "sovereignty" over the islands (after the Spanish-American war), which lasted until 1914 when the Japanese took over at the conclusion of World War I. Japanese "sovereignty" lasted until 1944 when, technically, no one took over—for a very short time. At the end of the war, the Marianas, as were many other islands of the Pacific having been "captured" from the Japanese, were placed under a United Nations "trusteeship" and awarded oversight by the United States. Again, there were no "sovereign" nations here—other than the United States.

In the mid-'70s, as the "trusteeship" was drawing to an end, island "groups" were given the opportunity to *elect* their future status among several options—including independence as a "sovereign" nation. The Northern Marianas, however, overwhelmingly rejected becoming a "sovereign" nation and *elected* to enter into a state of "partnership" under a "covenant" agreement with the United States. This agreement was correctly referred to by Mr. Ramos as a "treaty." What has not been mentioned very often is the fact that the "treaty" *does* give the United States the unilateral authority to implement certain actions, among them that of immigration control, while other actions must clearly be "implemented in consultation with." That appears to be why Public Law 115-229 was titled as an action to "..implement the covenant…"

So, for enlightenment, please explain when the Northern Marianas (or the native people in then current residence) comprised a "sovereign" nation. And please don't confuse "ethnicity" with "nationality."

Mr. Ramos, in your recent letter titled "Fears be gone" and primarily addressed to Mr. Bennett, your last paragraph referred to "eight points shared with CUC." I cannot find anywhere in any of Mr. Bennett's letters that such was done. Perhaps you had confused Mr. Bennett with a letter written by me and printed on about Oct. 25 in which I shared eight suggestions that I felt CUC should adopt in an effort to reduce costs and, therefore, negate the need for rate increases to pay for customer rebates.

Now, a brief note regarding the DHS "interim final rule" on transitional worker status in the NMI as it applies to the Administrative Procedures Act, which seems to be a hotly contested item in recent letters and articles. Personally, I fail to see why this has become so contentious. Have any of the commenters or letter writers even read the regulation? Which, by the way, devotes an entire section to the APA? In the first place, the APA specifically *allows* such releases under the cited and explained circumstances. Secondly, the rules are *not* the "final" rules, but rather are "interim" rules and subject to comments and changes and will not be made final until ensuing comments have been considered.

The reason cited for such need to issue is the fact that *Congress*, not the DHS, mandated that the public law would take effect on June 28 (and allowed an extension to Nov. 28) and that to implement such a law on Nov. 28, *without* "some kind" of rules in place would do great harm to the NMI. Thus were established *"interim"* rules *and* a provision for *changing* them (at least slightly) thereafter. At least a framework would be in place on Nov. 28 as mandated by *Congress* in order to avoid a period of "non-activity" due to a failure to have *any* rules in place. So what is so wrong about that as long as the APA itself allows such *and* the provision for change is still included? Is not the NMI just trying to make a mountain out of a molehill for the pitiful sake of delaying change to the status quo?

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Travel season is on the way

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

Traveling within the Commonwealth is usually a friendly, and even fun, proposition. But for those who are going to venture afar during the coming holiday season, it's worth giving some thought to making the airline excursions as easy as possible; the game hasn't exactly changed, but there's a lot less slop in the rules these days.

For example, one recent trend in many airlines is to charge passengers for their checked baggage. It pays to research this stuff beforehand, so you can decide whether you want to lighten your load to just a carry-on stature, or, if not, you can maybe pay due heed to the checked bag weight limits and try to minimize the number of checked bags you have to haul.

Of course, if you're a habitually light traveler, as I am, you're so used to skipping the baggage check that the fees don't seem to concern you. But in a roundabout way, they do: In order to avoid checking luggage, a lot of passengers are trying to defy the laws of dimensional physics by stuffing items the size of armchairs into overhead bins that are the size of, well, overhead bins. As a result, cabin stowage space is really at a premium these days.

The standard arsenal of the frequent flyer is one "rollaway" (by which I mean wheeled, carry-on suitcase) that fits into the overhead bin, plus one "briefcase" that can go under the seat in front of you.

As far as I'm concerned, the rollaway suitcase is the best thing to happen to aviation since the invention of the airborne coffee maker. My rollaway has lasted over a decade and has seen as many as 240 days per year of hard duty on the road. There are a lot of good brands out there, and it pays to web surf for reviews, since travelers like to compare notes on this stuff.

The "briefcase" allowance is a little more fluid than the suitcase provision; I don't know what formally constitutes a briefcase. But if you travel a lot, or merely want to maximize your amount of briefcase space for your next trip, the Cabela's Outback Computer Attache is best bag I've found for the job and, believe me, I've tried a lot of bags. I was so impressed with this thing that I wrote about it in my Aug. 15, 2008 column (I'll put an archive link at SaipanBlog.com). I note that the price has gone up by 10 bucks (now $89.99); you've got to love that weak dollar, eh? Well, the bag is still worth it.

Here are some random travel opinions, based on my wandering ways:

1. Pack earplugs. Always.

2. Pack a small flashlight. Not only is it useful on a long flight, it can keep you from breaking your face during a 3am bathroom visit in a strange hotel or in your cousin's guest quarters.

3. Start shopping for a travel alarm clock early. A lot of designs are wretched, so you can't just grab one on the road on a whim.

4. Electric stuff (cell phones, etc.) that can be charged via your computer's USB port will save a lot of space since you can forsake dedicated charging adapters.

5. Shoes are the hardest thing to pack. If you can avoid packing a pair, you're ahead of the game. Sometimes, my wife actually mails me shoes.

6. If you're going to a cold climate, wear your coat, don't pack it; packing it just takes space. I've gotten strange looks at Saipan's airport as I wear my coat in the searing tropical heat, but, then again, I get strange looks no matter what.

7. If you are going stateside, note that airlines have reduced capacity in many cases, so you should expect a crowded situation.

8. An airliner is a lousy place to try to get any real work done. But it's an OK place to enjoy some casual reading. That's what I think.

9. For some reason I've seen a lot of good buys on gifts in airport shops this year, so if you've got the time and inclination, it might be worth nosing around.

I'm just now getting ready for a Thanksgiving vacation, so maybe I'll see you on the road.

Letters to the Editor

A mother's open call for action and responsibility

I write this letter as the mother of Roselle Calvo openly calling for the Scholarship Board to start acting on the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the awarding of the honors scholarships. It took about three years of going to court until this case was successfully found in favor of my daughter Roselle's argument that the board did not follow the law in deciding the recipients of the scholarships. Although the ruling has been issued, I cannot truthfully say that justice has been served because the board has yet to uphold the court's ruling.

It was decided by the justices of the Supreme Court (Justice Castro, Justice Manglona, and Associate Judge Inos) that the Board's methodology was indeed contrary to the law and that in order to correct what they had done, the Board must go back and recalculate the awards based on the methodology specified by the law. The Court stipulated that recalculations must start from 2006, which is the year Roselle was a candidate for the honors scholarship. It's been months since the decision of the Supreme Court was issued, and yet, the recalculations have still to be produced.

During the summer, it was understandable that the office was busy tending to Fall scholarship applications. However, there is no excuse for why they are not taking any action now, which is the interim period before the next influx of applications come in for next semester. We've heard all the excuses one can take. "There's no quorum." "We're looking into it." "So-and-so can't fly out." What's next? "A dog on Capitol Hill ate whatever work we did in relation to this case."

The excuses are running out, and the clock is ticking. Next May, there will be a new batch of high school graduates and new candidates for the honors scholarship. If the board continues to sit around and choose not to act, then we will continue to have young, deserving students shortchanged or cheated by a system that refuses to correct itself regardless of the law. What's more is, Roselle will be graduating in the next few months with a dual degree, Bachelor's of Science in Finance and Accounting along with an accelerated Master's of Science in Accounting. Roselle and her classmates from 2006 who all applied for the scholarship are expected to be graduating this year with their college degrees in hand, and it boggles my mind how the board is still not compelled by these reasons to start the recalculations. Makes me wonder, are they waiting for Roselle or her classmates to pursue a Ph.D. before finally taking action?

By prolonging the recalculations, they are spreading the disease of injustice that they created and are voluntarily refusing to adhere to doctor's (in this case, court's) orders to take the necessary medication to stop the disease from spreading and also to cure it. As they continue to avoid the issue, more and more kids will be affected and perhaps more lawsuits will be brought up. I am urging them to remember their fiduciary duties and to take responsibility for the damage done by them or their predecessors. I am asking them to put themselves in Roselle's shoes and those of her peers who were affected by the unlawful methodology they had in place. I am asking them to consider if it was their child who was affected by this. Would you be fine with the board sitting back and avoiding the issue? Would you feel that justice had been served simply because a court decision had been issued? More importantly, what kind of message are you sending to the young people whose futures you impact?

With this said, I am politely requesting that you handle this matter with urgency and a sense of responsibility. There is no blame game going on. Whatever happened is unfortunate, and we should move forward implementing the solution to correct it and ensuring that it doesn't happen again.

MaryAnn D. Calvo
San Vicente, Saipan

In defense of Judge Govendo

On Nov. 17, a Guam judge will hear testimony as to whether CNMI Associate Judge Ken Govendo violated NMI's judicial code of ethics. The charge was brought by Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

With all due respect for Associate Judge Manglona, I was shocked to see that she would find fault with the way her peer and colleague, Associate Judge Ken Govendo, ran his courtroom. She has accused him of violating the judicial code of ethics, and using racially insensitive language in court. I believe the specific phrase she found offensive was "hasta muchacho."

It might interest her to know that far from being derogatory, "muchacho" is defined in the *Oxford American Dictionary*, 2nd edition, as "a young man." Govendo might have erred in that the person he addressed as "muchacho" is no longer a young man. But derogatory? Hardly.

Moreover, anyone who has ever sat in on Judge Govendo's family court proceedings would know that the Judge often talks directly to those appearing before him, often lectures them, often is quite outspoken in doing so.

Attending Judge Govendo's Family Court is a refreshing experience. It is also enriching, encouraging, eye-opening. Judge Govendo takes to heart the problems of the battered women, the wives left with no income, the failures of fathers to provide support to their children who all appear before him. He has established solutions, alternative methods of payment, helpful strategies for delinquent fathers - all in the interests of seeing that children, and their mothers, receive their due - are able to cope with daily survival. The Judge tends to do so with a certain flair - a sense of humor, a sense of the dramatic, a sense of familiarity, based on his many years in the CNMI and his knowledge of the community, of the people.

This is not being racially insensitive.

One can't help wondering how often, for how long, Judge Manglona has sat in on Govendo's family court proceedings in reaching her patently erroneous conclusion that he is biased against those who appear in his court room. On the contrary, Judge Govendo is caring, concerned, committed about the welfare of those who appear before him, and creative in finding effective and workable solutions. But biased? By no stretch of the imagination!

It is to be fervently hoped that the Guam judge assigned to hear the charges against Judge Govendo takes into account the unique circumstances surrounding the conduct of family court in the CNMI, and bears in mind, as well, this statement from the American Bar Association on judicial conduct: "In recent years many jurisdictions have created what are often called "problem solving" courts, in which judges are authorized by court rules to act in nontraditional ways. For example, judges presiding in drug courts and monitoring the progress of participants in those courts' programs may be authorized and even encouraged to communicate directly with social workers, probation officers, and others outside the context of their usual judicial role as independent decision makers on issues of fact and law."

Judge Govendo may act in non-traditional ways, but the record will show that his family court has been far more successful in resolving issues of support, of paternal responsibility, of marital discord, than the routine procedures followed outside the family court setting.

Will Guam's judge be aware of, sensitive to, empathetic with, what Judge Govendo does, and tries to do in his court? Will he recognize that the CNMI is different from Guam? Is he flexible, open to the non-traditional? Let us hope so!

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

Thank you

It is National Nurse Practitioners' week and I would like to thank our Chairwoman Bertha Jermay Peters Camacho, MSN, NP for all her hard work. She has made a tremendous impact on all the Nurse Practitioners in the CNMI. She pushed and pushed until we were heard. There are no words to express my sincere appreciation for your endless work. She is a great leader and a great Nurse Practitioner.

Another NP that I would like to thank is Arley Long. She worked hard on this bill to help our autonomy. We thank you Arley for a wonderful job; you are one great NP.

Honorable Governor Benigno Fitial signed P.L. 16-34 into law on March 23, 2009. This law enables Nurse Practitioners to practice autonomously. Thank you so much Governor Fitial for understanding the impact this bill will have on our community.

I would like to thank Senator Joseph Mendiola who authored the bill. Dr. Ramsey, Dr. Balachandra, Dr Lamar, Dr. Stephanie Hart, Dr. Don Hardt, Congressman Joseph Camacho and Roxanne Diaz thank for your support.

We would also like to thank our family for their endless support when we were away during our studies in order to help our community.

Thank you and *si yu'us maase.*

Roca and Vinnie Sablan
Tanapag, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

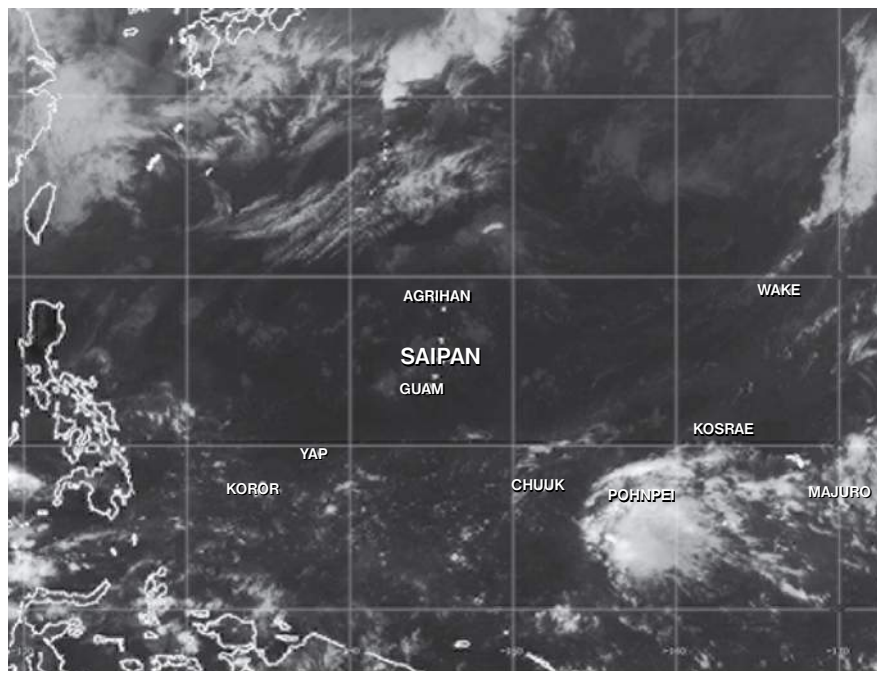
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲84 ▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63 ▼54
Beijing	Sunny	▲43 ▼28
Hong Kong	Showers	▲72 ▼61
Honolulu	Showers	▲80 ▼74
London	Showers	▲59 ▼48
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲65 ▼49
Manila	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲90 ▼59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼64
New York	Rain	▲54 ▼46
Osaka	Showers	▲62 ▼58
Paris	Showers	▲57 ▼48
Pusan	Rain	▲63 ▼56
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲63 ▼53
Salem	Rain	▲48 ▼32
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲59 ▼48
Seoul	Rain	▲52 ▼43
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲59 ▼55
Washington, DC	Rain	▲52 ▼46

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low-level trough extends northward from EQ159E to through Pohnpei to 10N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 3N and 9N from 155E to 162E. Trade-wind convergence associated with a trough running from 4N170E to 18N169E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms around Majuro between 5N and 10N from 170E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:51 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:36 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
4:43 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:42 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:18 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:20 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:46 AM	2:55 PM
Saturday	3:40 AM	3:37 PM
Sunday	4:35 AM	4:20 PM
Monday	5:31 AM	5:06 PM
Tuesday	6:27 AM	5:56 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letter to the Editor

A prayer for our leaders

To all candidates, whether you won or lost, if you lost, then nice try, you all made a great effort and I applaud you all for not being afraid to face the challenge, but I guess this is not your time. It's okay, I pray for your future success.

To all final winners, whatever your stand and position may be, whether you're new or an experienced candidate, prepare and always pray every single day and night that you all take your stand and position in a positive and honest way. Show the public that you are all doing your best and putting in effort. Do not look back, but look forward and continue passing the torch. Don't let it die—whatever it takes, you were chosen to take a stand and commit to serving the public. We will always continue to pray for you all, so that your positions will be accomplished. Although it may not be the whole thing, but at least something will be accomplished. Show the public that you can be proven leaders, that we can rely on you.

To all the people that published their comments on this newspaper, I wish you all to sit back and think of the good side and the bad side. Then weigh both sides. Just remember, nobody is perfect, but we all try our very best effort to stand on our own two feet no matter what comes and goes. We just got to go with the flow, but in a positive way. Before you say negative words, try standing in their own shoes. They are sacrificing a lot for us, only then can you all understand.

This is the time for originality. It is time for a better change. It doesn't matter who wins, but whether we like it or not, we, the people, can and will only make the change by lending our open hands, along with our friendly heart—no bitterness and negativity. Just remember, we are not permanent on this earth. Let's face the fact and the reality that we all have to share what we have and what we can on this earth, especially here within our CNMI.

Whoever takes the stand, we have to support them all because we are all in one ship. If the ship sinks, then we all sink.

To all previous officials who were convicted for being dishonest, with all my respect and belief in my heart, I always pray for you to realize the mistakes you made, but not to repeat it again. We're all human beings, so I always pray for you all to be forgiven.

To the current Gov. Benigno Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, whatever the outcome will be, if you both remain seated, then we will always pray for you both and the other parties so you could continue your efforts and accomplishments. Good luck!

If you're both replaced, then we thank you both for all your efforts in accomplishing what you all had to do. We appreciate all your efforts and the positions you all stood for. You have distinguished the ability of a proven positive leadership. Once again, thank you.

Good luck to you all, and I pray for the next elected officials to be guided and be in good hands always. *Biba*! God bless you all.

Eleanor Dela Cruz
As Lito, Saipan

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2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
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T07-06418L	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	24090	SILVER	ACG-068	11,399	
TOYOTA VAN								
R09-015F	2005	SIENNA CE	AUTO	92297	WHITE	ADR-541	12,999	
T06-05291L	2006	SIENNA CE	AUTO	124063	WHITE	ABY-919	12,599	
GM CARS								
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	7,499
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U09-079P	2008	NISSAN FRONTIER PICK UP	AUTO	23179	SILVER	ACL-383	18,199	
U07-034T	2004	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
GM VAN								
N/A	2007	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	55365	WHITE	BUS-1223	~~17,499~~	16,999

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Letters to the Editor

The fear of Ambrose

I have learned over the years that there is a small group of people whom I refer to as the opinion haters who have maintained a constant vigilance on my letters for the sole purpose of killing the messenger and to hell with the message. The letter "Fears be gone" by Andy Ramos is a good example of their tactics to use a half-truth and twist it with a lie just to attack me. Yes, I am against the lawsuit with the feds but I never said the case didn't have merit or that the indigenous people should not fight. I said that "diplomacy was our best weapon, not a lawsuit" but I guess Andy Ramos on Rota does not know what diplomacy means, what it looks like nor does he understand the sheer power of diplomacy. Just because you have a right to take someone to court does not mean it is in your best interest, especially if you lose. I guess the cognitive analytical process to understand all the factors involved in the lawsuit is not working for some people. I have also explained that even if the governor wins the lawsuit we will still be in the same economic crisis but with a federal government that will no longer be friendly and they will surely take off the kid gloves and make it even harder for us if we want to play hard ball with them. Trust me, we don't want to make the federal government angry at the CNMI. I hope you get my meaning because in the long run we will still be the losers with the lawsuit approach.

Do you really want the federal government to stop giving us all those millions of dollars that have subsidized the social and economic fiber of the CNMI since its conception? There is a saying that "you won't miss your water until the well runs dry" and it looks like the feds needs to cut off all that special money we get before people like Andy Ramos gets the message that we are in a partnership and we are *totally* dependent upon the federal government. Do you really want to bite the hand that has given us over 2 billion dollars of other people's money since the conception of the Commonwealth? Justifying your rationale for the lawsuit is one thing but fixing the Commonwealth's social and economic crisis is a totally different story and the means of a lawsuit *does not justify the end results!*

Writing letters to attack me for my letters that harm your candidate is not the answer for the CNMI as people can see through the smoke and mirrors. Your attacks with half-truths amount to nothing more than *a whole lie.* Most people who read my letters realize I want the same things for the CNMI that most local people want for the CNMI, I just believe we are going about it in the wrong way. As for our fellow Micronesians and the UN, lobbyists and the lawsuits cost big money and they ruin our reputation while diplomacy won't cost us any additional money other than the travel expenses to Washington and the UN, plus the results of diplomacy will be respect with a more perpetual solution. I can see the attitude of *"outsiders can't tell us what to do"* is still a problem, especially when the present administration doesn't have a clue about what to do.

I knew the attack dogs were coming after me sooner or later to try and disqualify my letters about the administration and so did the general public who reads my letters. Andy Ramos wrote a letter to try and dispel the fears about the administration but not a word from Andy on hope offered by the present administration! The opinion haters still don't get it because one thing is very obvious, you fear Ambrose! I'm not going to show you the light a second time when its obvious you want to remain in the dark ages but I will say thanks for being predictable and true to form.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

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Altima Coupe	9C188411	Red	$3,500.00
~~Quest S~~	~~9N1037~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$4,000.00~~
~~Murano SL~~	~~9W1006~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$4,000.00~~

FORD	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Ranger XL	9PA13734	White	$2,500.00
Fusion SE	9R137166	Smoke	$3,000.00

HONDA	STOCK #	Color	Discount
~~Fit Sport~~	~~9S05442~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Civic LX	9L015450	Blue	$3,000.00
Civic Hybrid	9S007352	Gray	$3,500.00
~~Accord LXP~~	~~8A1031~~ SOLD	~~Gold~~	~~$4,000.00~~
~~Element LX~~	~~9L00019~~ SOLD	~~Silver~~	~~$3,000.00~~
Odyssey EX	9B017464	White	$4,000.00

KIA	STOCK #	Color	Discount
Sedona LX	86235463	White	$3,500.00

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Vote for the fate of the CNMI

My family and I, wish to extend our sincerest appreciation and "Thank You" to all our supporters, for your support during the campaign season. As you all know, there will be a runoff election on Nov. 23, 2009, for our top two contenders for Governor and Lt. Governor (Hofschneider-Palacios and Fitial-Inos). To all who believed in me as a candidate, as a person, and as a citizen of our great Commonwealth, I humbly ask for your support to please go out and vote and help decide what we want here in the CNMI, Please do not forget what we are currently facing and experiencing in our lives. I have respect for both candidates, and I wish them well, but I asked that you (the people) place your votes where you think is best for all of us. We have already been served by our present Governor and Lt. Governor (Fitial-Inos), you have witnessed what was promised to us—some were fruitful and some were fruitless. Now we have a contender (Hofschneider-Palacios), willing to face a new challenge and have made promises to help the people of this great Commonwealth. Our troubled economy and unemployment have led to a lot of crimes, public corruption (private and government) that have tarnished the image of our Commonwealth. Please mark your calendar, Nov. 23, 2009, and vote for the fate of our Commonwealth.

Joseph Mafnas Palacios
Congressman-Elect Precinct 1

Labor readies Tinian and Rota umbrella permits

The Department of Labor will have umbrella permits ready for Rota and Tinian on Monday, Nov. 16, 2009, according to acting Deputy Secretary Barry Hirshbein yesteray.

The umbrella permits that have been issued for Rota and Tinian cover all workers whose contracts have been approved and all workers whose contracts are in process with the Labor Department, including pending applications, pending deficiencies, and denials that have not yet been appealed to the Hearing Office.

These umbrella permits also cover ministers, missionaries, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, IRs of aliens, and Commonwealth permanent residents.

Foreign workers and persons in the other categories should report to the Tinian Labor Office and the Rota Labor Office at any time between 10am and 4pm on Monday. The hours to pick up permits will be extended to Tuesday, Nov. 17, as needed. No one will be denied a permit because of time pressure, Hirshbein stressed.

Everyone seeking to pick up an umbrella permit should bring their valid permit card as identification. If the permit card is not available for some reason, bring a passport as identification.

Any person whose umbrella permit is not on the list should fill out the forms that the employees of the Saipan Labor Office will have with them. Those forms will allow the umbrella permits to be issued the following week on Tinian and Rota.

Those who live in family units with minor children are reminded that umbrella permits are available even if immediate relative permits have not been previously available or immediate relatives have failed to register. Any person who has previously failed to register for an IR permit should apply for an umbrella permit now, before the Nov. 27 deadline. ***(Labor)***

An evening of wine to help bring world-class performers to Saipan

Glushko's Academy of the Performing Arts, in welcomed partnership with Pacific Trading Company and the Hyatt Regency Saipan, is pleased to announce a "Wine Tasting & Raffle Ballet Fundraising Event" on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009.

This delightful offering will be at Giovanni's at the Hyatt from 6pm to 9pm. Pacific Trading Company will present wines from Kendall-Jackson Estates, Camelot, and Tin Roof Vineyards and participants will have the chance to learn and discuss tasting notes with a sommelier from the International Guild of Sommeliers. The sampled wines will also be available for bottle purchase throughout the evening, of which a generous portion of the proceeds will go to advance community arts access by Glushko's Academy.

The Hyatt Regency will serve delicious appetizers, carefully matched to the evening's wine selections.

A suggested minimum donation of $25 per person includes the wine tasting, appetizers, and one (1) raffle ticket. For tickets, call 483-6271. Tickets will be available at the door.

Art director and founder, Anna Glushko said, "We are building the excitement and energy for our upcoming holiday performances and the truly world-class talent from Russia, Korea, and Japan that we are, again, so pleased to bring to Saipan and these talented young people. This is a perfect evening out for all who support the cultural life of our islands."

Glushko's Academy's annual holiday tradition of world-class ballet stars showcasing on Saipan will be held on the evenings of Dec. 4 to Dec. 6 at the Palms Resort Saipan. This year's performance is Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, *Sleeping Beauty*. Tickets are on sale now.

Approaching its 8th year, Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts was established on Saipan in July 2002. The Academy's activity has largely focused on providing original and technique ballet instruction and performance experiences to students ages three to adult. ***(PR)***

New health insurance premium rate for employees, retirees takes effect

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has informed all members of the government's Group Health Life Insurance Program that a new employee/retiree contribution rate for premiums and enrollment will be enforced, effective pay period of Nov. 8.

For single enrollment, employees will pay $64.72 biweekly while retirees will pay $70.11 semi-monthly.

For couple enrollment, the new rate is $132.68 biweekly for employees and $143.73 semi-monthly for retirees.

For family enrollment, the new rate is $207.10 biweekly while $224.36 semi-monthly for retirees.

The new rate reflects the 50-50 sharing of both members.

The Fund asked payroll supervisors and individuals responsible to set up computerized premium deductions in all autonomous and non-autonomous agencies to make adjustments to these new premium contribution rates.

The Fund, under the proposed regulation published on Oct. 30 in the Commonwealth Register, indicated that the new rate was adopted to address the renewal of the Aetna Global Benefits as the carrier of the fully insured health program, which became effective on Nov. 1.

The Fund said the adoption of the new rates will also put into action critical changes to the GHLI program that is crucial to its proper operation and survival.

Group Health and Life Insurance acquired the services of Aetna as its third party administrator in July 2006.

The group health care insurance plan was privatized on Nov. 1, 2007. Premiums paid by government and the subscribers are remitted to the GHLI Trust Fund which then remits all contributions to Aetna after deducting 1 percent surcharge.

Newborn Hearing Screening
Did you know that... Every baby born in the CNMI receives a hearing screening before leaving the hospital?
Ask if your baby passed the test. Babies learn to talk from what they hear...if your baby needs follow up, schedule your appointment right away.
Follow-up testing is FREE! Call 236-8709
Printing funded by the Cooperative Agreement for Early Hearing detection and Intervention (EHDI) Tracking, Surveillance, and Integration.
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Let Chow Queen bakery products reign in your life

WHAT'S COOKING?

Located in Susupe, just across Saipan Grand Hotel, Chow Queen offers a variety of breads, from a simple dinner roll to fruit-filled breads, and other tasty combinations that will satisfy your palate.

"Chow Queen has been in the bakery business for the past four years and despite the current financial problems here, we are proud to say that the number of individuals/stores patronizing our products are growing because we always improve our products and create new ones," owner Ta Bun Kuy said.

They have Chinese and Filipino bakers making more than 30 kinds of breads.

"We usually wholesale our products to major stores on Saipan, but customers can buy at our store at Susupe by 10:30am as our products are ready by that time," Ta added.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Chow Queen bakers pose with their products at their store in Susupe.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Chow Queen's French bread.

Ta said they also supply airport vendors, as their products meet the vendors' strict requirements, such as having a clean facility.

The bakery owner said it is very satisfying to hear from customers they meet saying "your breads are very good."

Ta vowed to continue providing the island with delicious, nutritious, and inexpensive bread made by their experienced bakers.

Crunch in every bite

One of the customers' favorites at Chow Queen is the French bread. Chow Queen's French bread has a combination of a crisp and crunchy crust and slightly chewy center, making this bread different from the traditional French bread.

"The good thing about our French bread is after three days, you still have the same quality. You toast it, and you get the same crunchy crust, and a soft and slightly chewy inside," Ta said.

Chow Queen's French bread comes in a smaller version than the usual 50-centimeter to 60-cm long and 5cm to 6cm wide French bread.

"Ours is a pack of four short pieces of French bread. The idea behind this twist is to have bite-size pieces so one will not be overwhelmed with a big chunk of bread. With its size, you get to enjoy every bite," Ta added. "Chow Queen's French bread is great for breakfast with egg and butter or different kinds of bread spread, to make garlic bread or to dip with curry dish. Don't forget you need to toast it before serving."

Chow Queen's French bread is made to order.

"You call us a day ahead or in the morning and you can pick them up at our store in the afternoon," he said. Each pack of French bread cost only $1.75.

WIC approved products

Chow Queen is one of the three bakeries selling products approved for individuals under the Women, Infants, and Children program. These are loafs made from wheat.

"What makes our wheat loaf different is you get a better feel and taste when you chew them, but you still get the same nutritional value," Ta said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Dear Precinct IV,

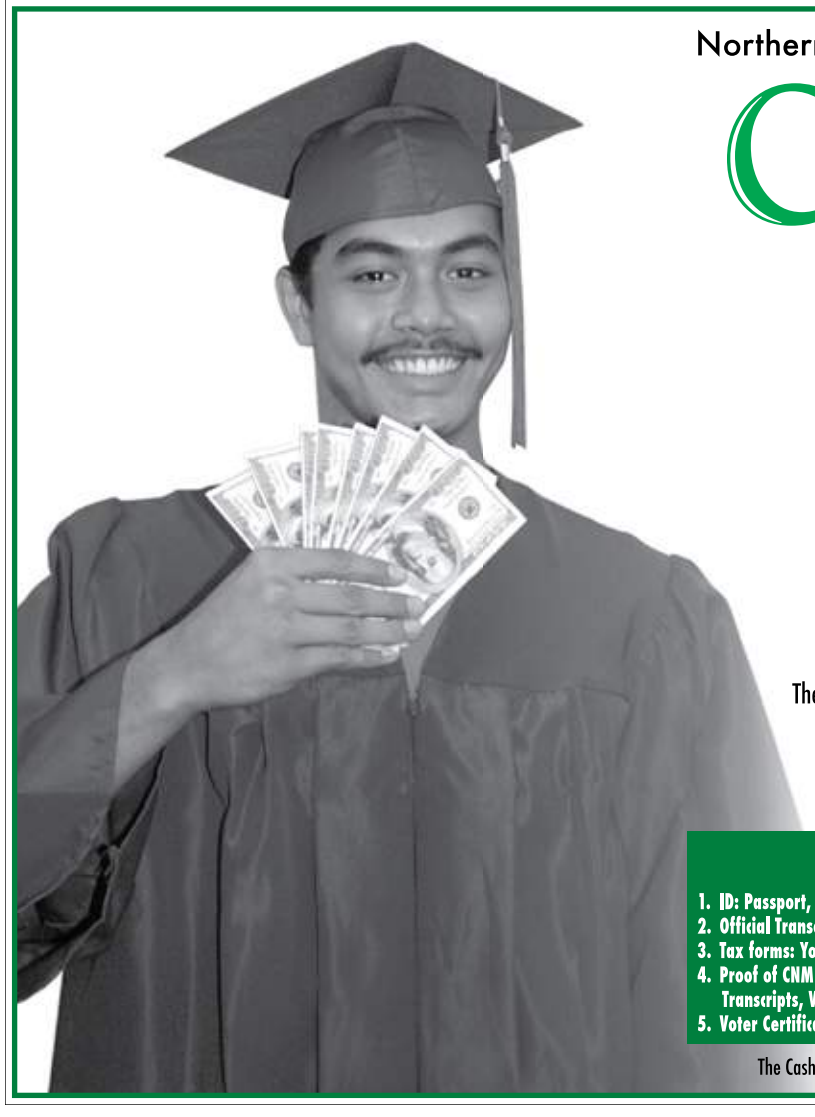
My wife, children and family wish to extend our profound gratitude and appreciation most especially to the 480 individuals who voted for me with confidence last November 7, 2009. Our sincerest gratitude goes to our hardworking Precinct Club Officers, members, village captains and advisors starting with Chairman Mike Borja, Vice Chairman Gil San Nicolas, Secretary Remi Mafnas & Treasurer Linda Cabrera for all their tireless efforts and contributions including those who supported my campaign expense either in-kind or money. In humble gratitude, I want to especially recognized the hard work of the Committee to Elect Treasurer, Mrs. Dora SN. Decena for giving me her generous time and untiring support throughout the campaign months. The voters of precinct 4 have spoken and now I come to you again to seek your continual support including my friends and families to please vote and help get re-elect Ben & Eloy for Governor and Lt. Governor this upcoming November 23, 2009 Run-Off Election. Lastly, I want to congratulate my party mate, Congressman-elect Sylvestre I. Iguel and Congressman-elect George N. Camacho (I) for winning a seat in the 17th House of Representatives. I wish you both the very best as you take your seat in congress this January 2010.

Si Yu'uas Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank you.

Let it BE!

THOMAS J. CAMACHO
2009 Candidate for House of Representatives,
Precinct IV

Covenant Party
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



Northern Marianas College and the College Access Challenge Project

Cash for College

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE NMC 1981

Step-By-Step Workshop to Help You Find Thousands of $$ For College!

Attend the FREE Cash for College Workshop and receive personal assistance in completing forms for free application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid (SHEFA),CNMI Scholarship, and other financial aid.

Saturday, November 21, 2009, at NMC's Building A

The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am to 3pm.

Attending the free workshop also qualifies you for a waiver of NMC's application fee and placement test fees for the Fall 2009 semester (a savings of up to $75!).
The workshop is open to both new and ongoing students.

Although not required for entry into the workshop, please bring in the following documents to help you complete the scholarship forms at the workshop:

1. ID: Passport, Birth Certificate, or Green Card
2. Official Transcript from high school (at least three official copies)
3. Tax forms: Your OR your parents' signed 2008 1040 form (2008 W-2 statements if you and/or your parents did not or will not file taxes)
4. Proof of CNMI residency for 2007 and 2008 (For Example, CNMI 1040 tax form, Employment Verification from your employer, Official Transcripts, Voter's Certification, etc.)
5. Voter Certification (to show you voted in last election – Contact Election Commission for more information) – SHEFA Requirement

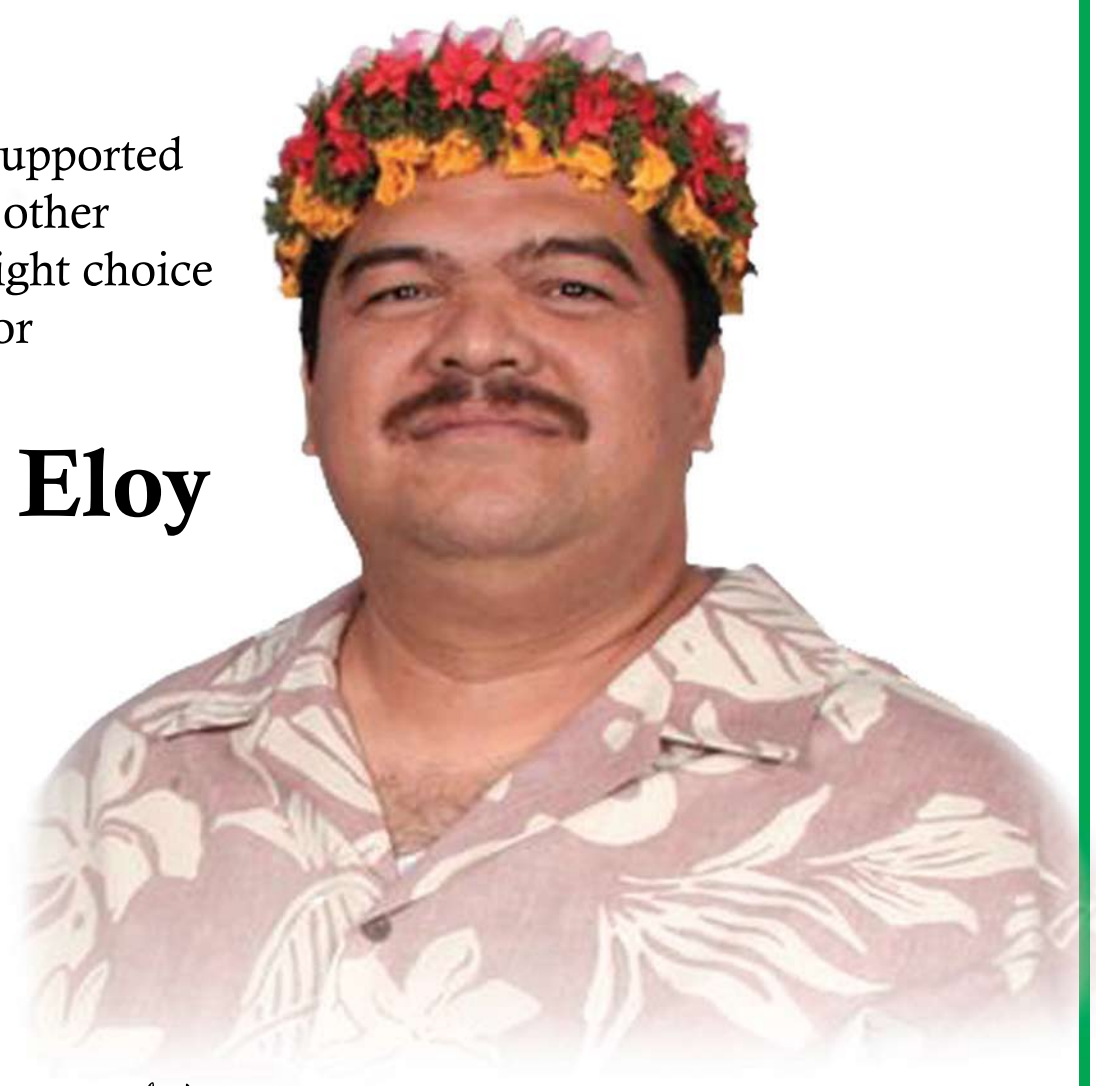
The Cash for College Workshop is made possible through the financial support of the U.S. DOE, College Access Challenge Grant Program.

Hafa Adai CNMI and thank you for your support on November 7th. I believe that the economic engine should come from the private sector and I am confident that the issues I feel very strongly about will be best handled by the Candidate with Proven Experience and Proven Leadership.

The Team of Ben and Eloy are the best equipped to handle navigating the challenges of our constantly changing economic times. They understand the need to diversify our economic base by encouraging and recruiting new businesses to our Commonwealth.

Just within the past few months, Ben and Eloy have successfully brought new investments to the beautiful islands of Rota and Tinian as well as bringing more than $96 million dollars in ARRA funds to our Commonwealth.

Today I ask all of you that supported Joe Camacho as well as the other candidates to support the Right choice for Governor & Lt. Governor



Vote Ben and Eloy
on November 23rd.

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This promotion is For Veterans Only

Serenity Salon & Spa

You can stop by Nov. 13 to Nov. 15 to have service right away or you can buy the promotion gift certificate & have the service later. You can have the service for yourself, for your family or for your loved ones.

Buy 1 Treatment and get
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FOOT SPA WITH FOOT MASSAGE	$	15.00
HAIR REBONDING (the price is determined by the lenght of hair)	$	
HAIR RELAX (the price is determined by the lenght of hair)	$	
HAIR CUT WITH SHAMPOO & BLOW DRY	$	12.00
HAIR CUT LADIES	$	10.00
HAIR CUT MEN	$	7.00
HAIR PERMING	$	30.00
HAIR AND MAKE-UP	$	22.00
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BACK WAXING	$	20.00
BRAZILLIAN WAXING	$	20.00
BIKINI WAXING	$	15.00
UNDER ARM WAXING	$	10.00
EYEBROW WAXING	$	8.00
EYEBROW THREADING	$	5.00
MUSTACHE TREADING	$	5.00

WEEKLY SPECIAL

MONDAY:	SIGNATURE MASSAGE	$20.00
TUESDAY:	MEN'S HAIR CUT	$5.00
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A top priority for Heinz and Arnold is to use available federal CIP funds to install an Instrument Landing System (ILS) and fuel farm on Tinian. Heinz and Arnold will work together with our newly elected Republican leaders of Tinian to make this happen!

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VOTE TO SPEND OUR FEDERAL CIP FUNDS!
VOTE TO JUMP START OUR ECONOMY!

VOTE FOR HEINZ AND ARNOLD

in the Gubernatorial Runoff Election on November 23rd, 2009!

www.heinzarnold2009.com

Please Vote Republican

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Business

Americans may be settling into spending less

NEWYORK (AP)—Americans spent about the same amount in October as in August and September, according to figures released Thursday by a key data service, and they may be settling into new low-spending habits.

Including everything from toys to food, but not cars or gasoline, U.S. retail sales rose slightly in October—1.5 percent—from a year earlier even as consumers grappled with rising unemployment and tight credit.

Compared with the month before, however, sales fell 2.3 percent in October, the biggest month-to-month decline since December 2008.

Thursday's figures from SpendingPulse, a service of MasterCard Advisors, are an estimate of spending in all forms including cash and offer fresh evidence that the holiday shopping season may be challenging for retailers.

Macy's Inc. said Wednesday that its sales have improved in recent months, and it reported a smaller third-quarter loss than a year earlier. But CFO Karen Hoguet said things remain very uncertain heading into a season that's crucial for most retailers.

A parade of earnings reports due Thursday and Friday from Wal-Mart Stores Inc., Nordstrom Inc., Kohl's Inc. and J.C. Penney Co. will offer a more textured read on consumers' recent spending.

Having cut their inventories and other costs, stores are expected to report solid profits. And the Commerce Department is expected to report Monday that total consumer spending rose slightly in October from September.

But New York retail consultant Walter Loeb pointed with pessimism to recent reports that consumer confidence is depressed and the unemployment rate climbed to 10.2 percent in October.

AP
In this photo made Monday, Oct. 5, 2009, flags fly outside the Macy's Downtown Crossing store in Boston.

"The top line is not going to show any dynamic spending," Loeb said. "Shoppers readjusted their spending. They will spend a little for Christmas... But then they will cut back early next year."

With consumer spending—including such items as health care - accounting for 70 percent of U.S. economic activity, economists watch it closely. Any change in retail sales could indicate what kind of economic recovery the nation will face.

Many economists and retail analysts expect spending to remain low for a while. Federal Reserve officials warned Tuesday that unemployment probably will stay high for several years, even if signs of economic recovery take hold.

"Consumers have entered a period of stabilization," said Kamalesh Rao, director of Economic Research for MasterCard Advisors. "We are not seeing robust measures of acceleration."

SpendingPulse estimates that sales, excluding autos, rose 2.4 percent in August and 0.6 percent in September but stayed at September's level during October. That was significantly better than the average 5.8 percent loss SpendingPulse found the prior three months.

Foreclosures dip 3 pct. in October from September

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of homeowners on the brink of losing their homes dipped in October, the third straight monthly decline, as foreclosure prevention programs helped more borrowers.

But foreclosure filings are still up 19 percent from a year ago, RealtyTrac Inc. said Thursday, and rising job losses continue to threaten the stabilizing trend.

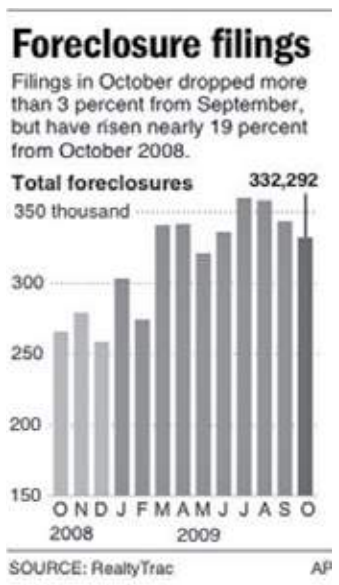
More than 332,000 households, or one in every 385 homes, received a foreclosure-related notice in October, such as a notice of default or trustee's sale. That's down 3 percent from September.

Banks repossessed more than 77,000 homes last month, down from nearly 88,000 homes in September.

New state programs, like one launched in Nevada in July, that require mediation before banks can seize a property have helped stem foreclosure activity, said Rick Sharga, senior vice president at RealtyTrac.

Also, anecdotally, lenders are delaying foreclosure as they evaluate which borrowers might qualify for the federal loan modification program, he said.

"That's the reason there's been a buildup of homes that are seriously delinquent but not foreclosed," he said.



Despite Nevada's legislative efforts to slow foreclosures, the state still clocked in the nation's highest foreclosure rate for the 34th month in a row, followed by California, Florida, Arizona and Idaho. Rounding out the top 10 were Illinois, Michigan, Georgia, Maryland and Utah.

Among cities, Las Vegas had the highest rate, the report showed. One in 68 homes there received a foreclosure filing in October, more than five times the national average. Seven of the top ten metros were in California, led by Vallejo and Modesto at No. 2 and 3.

GM needs new Buick Regal and Chevy Cruze to be hits

DETROIT (AP)—Two General Motors cars due in showrooms next year must be hits to help the automaker turn around sales and pay back its big debt to U.S. taxpayers.

The Buick Regal midsize sedan and Chevrolet Cruze compact, both sold in key segments of the U.S. car market, face stiff competition and other obstacles to success.

GM was to roll out the Regal on Thursday in Los Angeles, and it's counting on the sleek-looking sedan to claw out a new market for the once-stodgy Buick, now the official brand of bingo night at the senior center.

Buick has been absent from the tough midsize market since 2004, while the Cruze was recently put on hold because GM wasn't happy with how it drove.

Executives have high hopes that the Regal, much of it designed by GM's Opel engineers in Ruesselsheim, Germany, can help bring younger buyers to Buick, crucial to the brand's long-term growth. Currently the median age of a Buick customer is around 68, but GM is targeting new models for those in their 40s and 50s, said Craig Bierley, Buick's product marketing director.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Geithner encouraged by moves in Japan, China

TOKYO (AP)—Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said Wednesday he's encouraged by efforts in Japan and China to spur domestic demand instead of relying so heavily on American consumers—a shift that will contribute to more stable global growth. Geithner said he sees broad recognition among governments to create policies that will lead to more balanced, sustainable growth and avoid the kind of dangerous imbalances that contributed to the world recession. "We're very, very encouraged to see what's happening here in terms of a broad reform agenda ... to try to produce an economy more dependent on domestic sources of growth," Geithner said in Tokyo on his way to joining Pacific Rim finance ministers meeting in Singapore for the annual APEC summit.

Hewlett-Packard buys 3Com for $2.7B; ups guidance

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co. said Wednesday it is buying the 3Com Corp. networking company for $2.7 billion, the latest move by the world's No. 1 personal computer maker to expand into areas more profitable than PCs. HP also raised its 2010 guidance and reported preliminary quarterly earnings that topped Wall Street's forecasts. The company didn't provide specific reasons for its better outlook, other than a statement from CEO Mark Hurd that "significant growth in China" and "solid execution" helped HP in the quarter. HP's stock slipped 35 cents to $49.65 while 3Com's shares leaped $1.98, or 35 percent, to $7.67 in extended trading after the announcements.

The Fitial Administration says the choice is clear in this election and he is right- it is a race between him and everyone else - him promising *"better* times" and everyone else knowing mostly *"bitter* times".

The only thing this administration has proven is that four years in office is long enough to bring a community to the brink of disaster.

Crime is on the rise, airline routes and tourists are on the decline, the hospital is in the state of near total collapse, the government won't pay the Retirement Fund the full amount owed on a monthly basis, and the government agencies can barely provide services but are bloated with new political hires.

Ask yourselves, "Can we really afford four more years of this brand of leadership?"

The answer is "No, no mas!"

It is time for change!

Heinz S. Hofschneider and Arnold I. Palacios believe that hardworking citizens earning an honest day's work should be rewarded with an accountable and transparent government that spends your taxes wisely, and enforces the law fairly and in an evenhanded manner. We will act with urgency to restore services at the hospital (CHC), our public safety department (DPS), and our utility (CUC), and will leave no stone unturned to bring tourists and attract new investment. We will need your help to accomplish this. We will need your vote!

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Nation

Shooting suspect's superiors questioned behavior

WASHINGTON (AP)—A group of doctors overseeing Nidal Malik Hasan's medical training discussed concerns about his overly zealous religious views and strange behavior months before the Army major was accused of a shooting rampage at Fort Hood, Texas, that left 13 dead and 29 wounded.

Doctors and staff overseeing Hasan's training viewed him at times as belligerent, defensive and argumentative in his frequent discussions of his Muslim faith, a military official familiar with several group discussions about Hasan said. The official was not authorized to speak publicly about the meetings and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hasan was characterized in meetings as a mediocre student and lazy worker, a matter of concern among the doctors and staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, a military medical school in Bethesda, Md., the official said.

The concerns about Hasan's performance and religious views were shared with other military officials considering his assignment after he finished his medical training, and the consensus was to send the 39-year-old psychiatrist to Fort Hood, the official said.

Fort Hood, one of the country's largest military installations, was considered the best assignment for Hasan because other doctors could handle the workload if he continued to perform poorly and his superiors could document any continued behavior problems, the official said.

The group saw no evidence that Hasan was violent or a threat. It was more that he repeatedly referred to his strong religious views in discussions with classmates, his superiors and even in his research work, the official said. His behavior, while at times perceived as intense and combative, was not unlike the zeal of others with strong religious views. But some doctors and staff were concerned that their unfamiliarity with the Muslim faith would lead them to unfairly single out Hasan's behavior, the official said.

AP

A neighbor walks past the apartment of Nidal Hasan in Killeen, Texas, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009.

Stench returns near Ohio property that held bodies

CLEVELAND (AP)—A stench around the home of a suspected serial killer returned stronger than ever Wednesday as police searched the house next door for more bodies and carried out bags of evidence.

"It's like it got worse," said 22-year-old neighbor Terrance Johnson. "It smells bad in the air, like death."

Four plainclothes officers carried bags of evidence from the house next door to Anthony Sowell's early Wednesday afternoon, but police did not indicate what had been removed. The red-painted house next to Sowell's appeared to be abandoned but in good shape, aside from a broken porch railing.

The 50-year-old Sowell has been charged with five counts of aggravated murder. He was indicted Monday on one count of attempted murder, two counts of rape, two counts of kidnapping and two counts of felonious assault in an alleged attack Sept. 22 that led to the search of his home.

The east-side neighborhood had reeked off and on for several years, and residents had blamed the odor on a broken sewer or a nearby sausage shop. Now most think the smell came from decomposing bodies.

Neighbors blamed Wednesday's renewed odor on increased activity near Sowell's house.

The FBI, which has offered technical help in the investigation, said the timing of a thermal-energy search of the property would be up to city police, who didn't indicate when that would start.

5 men charged with sex crimes against children

LEXINGTON, Mo. (AP)—Authorities on Wednesday were searching a rural property in western Missouri for bodies and buried glass jars containing notes written more than 15 years ago by children who may have documented sexual abuse by five members of their own family.

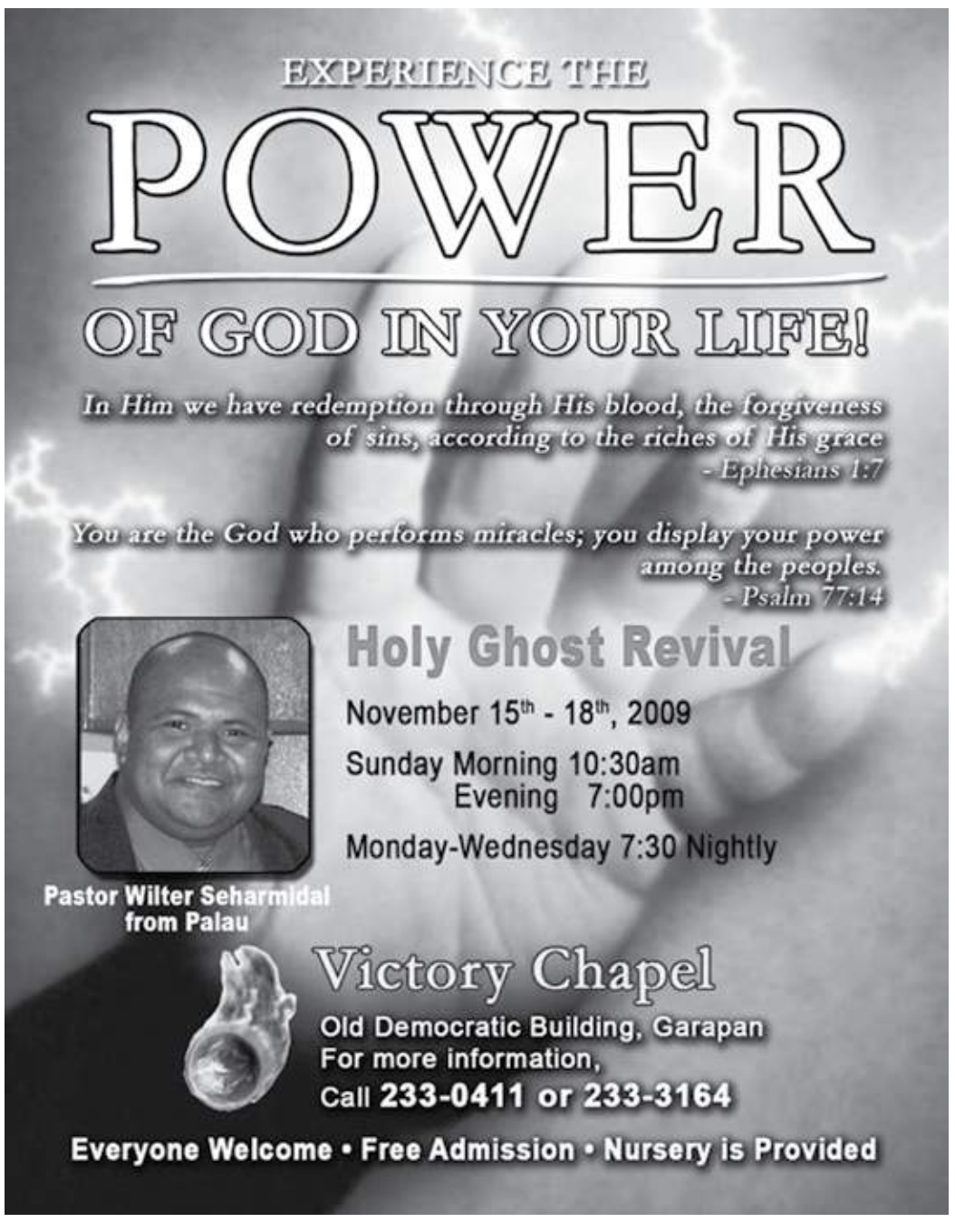
Lafayette County Sheriff Kerrick Alumbaugh pleaded for the public's help, saying investigators "believe that there are other victims out there, and we believe people in the public can give us more information."

Alumbaugh said authorities believe there may be bodies buried on the property outside Bates City, which is about 30 miles east of Kansas City. He refused to say to whom any of the bodies would have belonged. The property and a nearby home is owned by a man unrelated to the case who is cooperating with authorities.

A small excavator could be seen moving across the property Wednesday. Two ambulances were parked nearby, and crews were searching a creek with metal detectors.

"There has been an indication that there are body or bodies in numerous locations," Alumbaugh said.

The five men were arrested Tuesday and are charged with several felonies, including forcible sodomy, rape with a child younger than 12 and use of a child in a sexual performance.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You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.
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ACROSS THE NATION

Jury convicts Ark. man in death of TV anchorwoman

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A man was convicted of capital murder Wednesday for beating an Arkansas TV anchorwoman so brutally that her face was shattered and she never regained consciousness before dying five days later. Curtis Lavelle Vance could face the death penalty for the assault on Anne Pressly at her Little Rock bungalow. The same jury that convicted him reconvened to hear testimony about whether he should be put to death or imprisoned without the possibility of parole. After the verdict, Pressly's mother, Patti Cannady, raised a hand and said, "Praise God. Praise God." She burst into sobs. Vance, 29, of Marianna, was also convicted of residential burglary along with rape and theft of property in the Oct. 20, 2008, attack. Once jurors delivered the guilty verdict, Vance gestured toward the empty jury box, pointed to his eyes and ears and shook his head.

Mormons throw support behind gay-rights cause

It looked like a stunning reversal: the same church that helped defeat gay marriage in California standing with gay-rights activists on an anti-discrimination law in its own backyard. On Tuesday night, after a series of clandestine meetings between local gay-rights backers and Mormons in Salt Lake City, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced it would support proposed city laws that would prohibit discrimination against gays in housing and employment. The ordinances passed and history was made: It marked the first time the Salt Lake City-based church had supported gay-rights legislation. ***(AP)***

Report: 10 states face looming budget disasters

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—In Arizona, the budget has grown so gloomy that lawmakers are considering mortgaging Capitol buildings. In Michigan, state officials dealing with the nation's highest unemployment rate are slashing spending on schools and health care. Drastic financial remedies are no longer limited to California, where a historic budget crisis earlier this year grew so bad that state agencies issued IOUs to pay bills. A study released Wednesday warned that at least nine other big states are also barreling toward economic disaster, raising the likelihood of higher taxes, more government layoffs and deep cuts in services.

Relentless rains lead Va. gov to declare emergency

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Virginia's governor declared a state of emergency Wednesday as unrelenting rain from the remnants of a tropical storm soaked the state, while officials in North Carolina braced for another day of heavy rain. Gov. Tim Kaine's declaration mobilizes state agencies to prepare for the threat of flooding over a wide swath of Virginia. The National Weather Service forecasts 3 to 8 inches through Friday morning for parts of Virginia as the remains of Tropical Storm Ida, which was once a hurricane, crawl across the state. Old Dominion University in Norfolk canceled classes Thursday.

World

Afghan future threatened by ex-warlords in gov't

KABUL (AP)—Warlords helped drive the Russians from Afghanistan, then shelled Kabul into ruins in a bloody civil war after the Soviets left. Now they are back in positions of power, in part because the U.S. relied on them in 2001 to help oust the Taliban after the Sept. 11 attacks.

President Hamid Karzai later reached out to them to shore up his own power base as America turned its attention to Iraq after the Taliban's rout.

With the Taliban resurging, the entrenched power of the warlords is complicating Karzai's promises to rid his new government of corruption and cronies, steps seen as critical to building support among Afghans against the insurgents.

"You can't build a new political system with old politicians accused of war crimes," said lawmaker Ramazan Bashardost, who finished third in the country's fraud-marred August election. "You can't have peace with warlords in control."

Two of Karzai's vice presidents—Mohammed Qasim Fahim and Karim Khalili—are ex-warlords. His outgoing military adviser, Abdul Rashid Dostum, has been accused of overseeing the suffocation deaths of up to 2,000 Taliban prisoners during the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

UN says hunger stunts some 200 million children

ROME (AP)—Nearly 200 million children in poor countries have stunted growth because of insufficient nutrition, according to a new report published by UNICEF Wednesday before a three-day international summit on the problem of world hunger.

The head of a U.N. food agency called on the world to join him in a day of fasting ahead of the summit to highlight the plight of 1 billion hungry people.

Jacques Diouf, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization, said he hoped the fast would encourage action by world leaders who will take part in the meeting at his agency's headquarters starting Monday.

The U.N. Children's Fund published a report saying that nearly 200 million children under five in poor countries were stunted by a lack of nutrients in their food.

More than 90 percent of those children live in Africa and Asia, and more than a third of all deaths in that age group are linked to undernutrition, according to UNICEF.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen kill Pakistani working at Iranian Consulate

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen killed a Pakistani working at the Iranian Consulate in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Thursday, adding to security fears in the country as it presses an offensive against the Taliban along the nearby Afghan border. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, which follows the abduction of an Iranian diplomat in Peshawar in November 2008. He remains a hostage. Iran is mostly a Shiite Muslim country. The victim was also a Shiite Muslim. Sunni Muslim militants like the Taliban and al-Qaida believe Shiites are infidels and often target the sect. In the 1980s, Iran was alleged to have funded radical Shiite groups in the country.

Iran condemns Oxford for honoring slain protester

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran has protested to an Oxford University college over a scholarship in memory of the slain Iranian student who became an icon of mass street protests sparked by the disputed June election. In Tehran, a small group of hard-line women demonstrated Wednesday against the scholarship in front of the British Embassy. The women chanted "Death to Britain," the semi-official Fars news agency reported. Oxford's Queen's College established the Neda Agha Soltan Graduate Scholarship in Philosophy earlier this year, named for the 27-year-old student fatally shot on June 20 on the sidelines of a Tehran demonstration. Her dying moments were caught on a video viewed by millions on the Internet, and she became a potent symbol of the opposition's struggle.

Japan's emperor marks 20th anniversary on throne

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Emperor Akihito, marking the 20th anniversary of his coronation Thursday, says he is concerned young people are forgetting their history. Akihito said Japan must not forget its past—and especially the turbulent years his father, the late Emperor Hirohito, was on the throne—if it is to learn from its mistakes. "What worries me most is that the history of the past will gradually be forgotten," the 75-year-old monarch said at a brief news conference before Thursday's anniversary. He said it was regrettable Hirohito will be remembered by history for World War II and Japan's military advances into Asia prior to its defeat in 1945.

Irish priest freed in RP after a month

DUBLIN (AP)—A 79-year-old Irish Roman Catholic priest abducted in the Philippines a month ago was freed early Thursday and neither country paid any of the kidnappers' $2 million ransom demand, Irish and Filipino authorities said.

The Rev. Michael Sinnott said he was not harmed but complained of arduous journeys as kidnappers took him by sea and through jungles to evade government troops.

"I was treated well. Once I had been kidnapped and brought to the boat, that was very rough," he told Manila's ABS-CBN television from a military camp in southern Zamboanga city.

He said he was not angry with the kidnappers, whom the Philippine government suspected had ties with a large Muslim rebel group. "They gave me lectures on their ideology but apart from that, they treated me well."

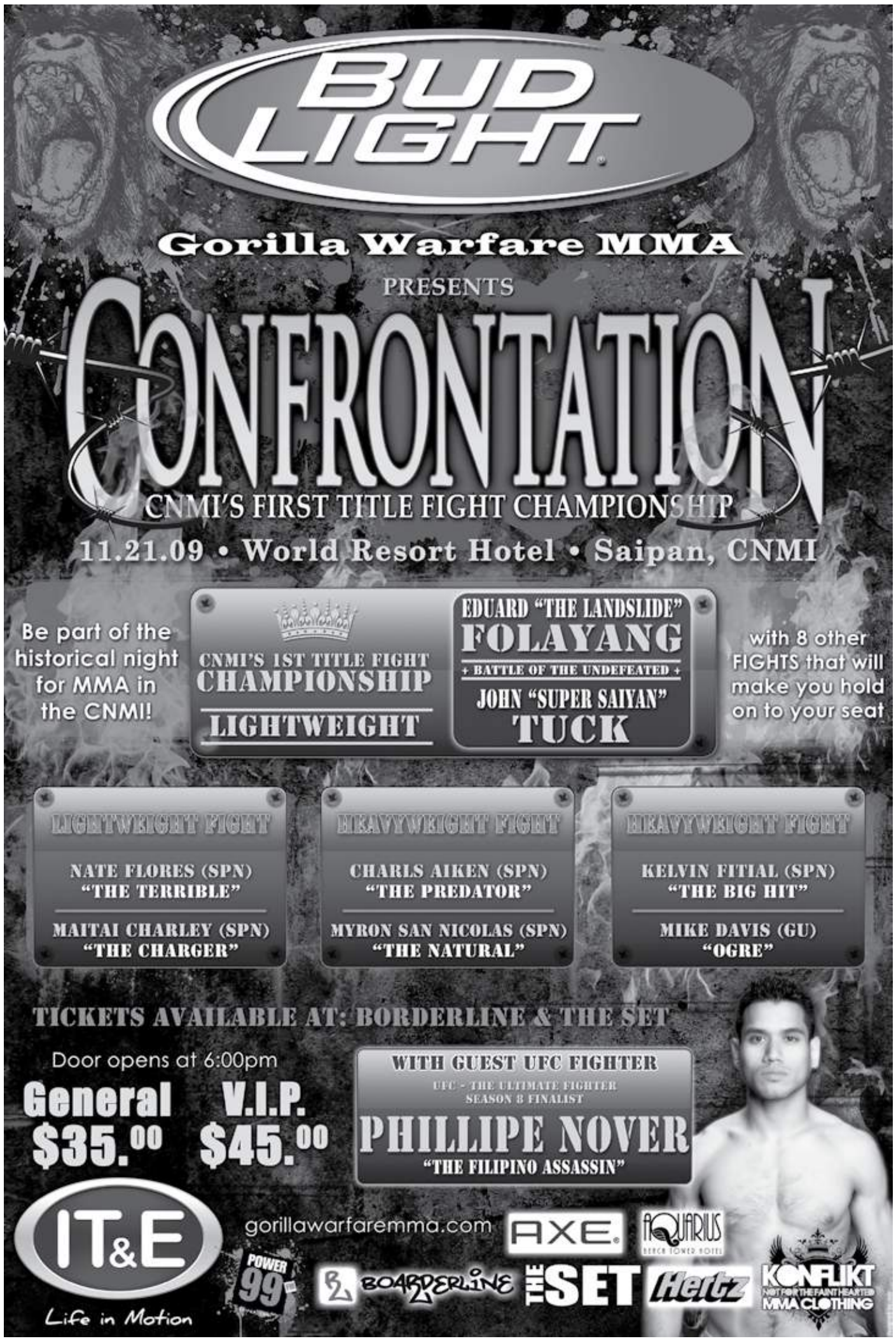
Irish President Mary McAleese called Sinnott's freedom the answer to the shared prayers of millions in both countries.

"He is clearly a man of great resilience, strength and courage and we wish him well as he seeks to recover from such a trying ordeal," McAleese said.

And Prime Minister Brian Cowen said the government would help the priest enjoy "a speedy reunion with his family and friends."

Six armed men abducted Sinnott Oct. 11 from his missionary home on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, escaped by speedboat, and took him into the jungle.

Officials had feared he could suffer a fatal heart attack because he was still recovering from heart-bypass surgery. Rumors persisted that he had died in captivity.



Science & Technology

Remote control: Travelers can keep an eye on home

By MELISSA KOSSLER DUTTON
FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This holiday season, many travelers will be able to keep a close eye on home.

Thanks to new security system technology, including live video feed, you can monitor everything from the front door to the sump pump from hundreds of miles away.

"You can see anything that's going on from anywhere in the world," said Jay Park of Park Place Installations in Buffalo, N.Y.

Homeowners can set the new alarm systems to send text messages or e-mails when something goes wrong at home.

Eric Harper, marketing director of the Lexington, Ky.-based Elan Home Systems, said a customer was on vacation recently when he got a message that his front door was open. He confirmed it by going online and pulling up feed from a camera by that door. A neighbor followed up, discovering that the pet sitter had not pulled the door firmly shut and it blew open in a storm.

New York City resident Eli Karp said he uses his cell phone to check his house about 10 times a day. His HomeLogic alarm system offers live video feed from inside the house, and Karp also can disarm the security system by phone to let in workers or delivery people.

"It's a time saver," he said. "It's extra peace of mind."

Homeowners can monitor the weather, as well as heating and cooling units and other household systems while traveling, said Richard Ginsburg, president of Protection One, based in Lawrence, Kan. Cameras show whether it's snowing or raining on the driveway, so you can decide whether to call a plowing service, he said.

Other homeowners set their systems to alert them if the sump pump or furnace stops working, developments that could lead to water damage from flooding or frozen pipes.

Installation costs for the new technology range from $150 to $600 depending on whether the residence has an existing security system. Monthly monitoring fees are between $15 and $40.

Do-it-yourself systems also are available, said Julie Strietelmeier, editor of The-gadgeteer.com, a Web site that reviews high-tech products. Prices vary depending on the number of cameras installed, she said. A startup kit would cost around $330 plus monthly monitoring fees.

Such systems—professional and DIY—have a lot of advantages, she said.

"I think it's useful if you're working during the day and you want to see what's going on at your house," said Strietelmeier from her home office in Columbus, Ind. "There's some really hardcore systems. You can do almost anything."

Homeowners with alarm systems usually recoup some of the costs with discounts on their insurance premiums, according to insurance professionals.

AP
This photo released by Protection One shows how your cell home can be used as a home security monitor.

Web-based e-mail features come to desktop software

NEW YORK (AP)—E-mail has taken a full circle.

Over the years, Web-based e-mail services have gotten much better, sporting many features once available only with the e-mail programs that reside on the computer desktop.

Now, those desktop programs are borrowing from their Web-based counterparts, such as Google Inc.'s Gmail.

The new version of Mozilla's Thunderbird, due out in the next few weeks, lets you keep your inbox clutter-free with a Gmail-like "archive" button for permanently storing older messages, while removing them from day-to-day sight.

Thunderbird 3 also introduces tabbed e-mail—akin to tabbed browsing available on most Web browsers, including Mozilla's own Firefox. You can quickly jump back and forth between e-mail messages by opening them in separate tabs.

David Ascher, CEO of Mozilla Messaging, said that when Thunderbird was first created, the only decent programs around were desktop-based ones such as Microsoft Corp.'s Outlook. For the latest version, Ascher said, Mozilla looked for ideas everywhere, including other e-mail programs that happened to be Web-based.

That might suggest the time has come to ditch desktop programs completely, now that they are playing catch-up rather than the other way around.

But Ascher said desktop systems still provide advantages for many users—particularly those with multiple e-mail accounts over multiple services.

Microsoft's monthly security fixes spare Windows 7

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft's newest computer operating system has survived its first few weeks on the market without needing any security fixes.

Microsoft Corp. plugged several security holes Tuesday, but none are aimed at Windows 7, which was released Oct. 22.

That's to be expected, said Ben Greenbaum, a researcher at the antivirus software company Symantec Corp. "Attackers will take more time to figure out ways of breaking into Windows 7," he said.

Computer users can get the patches through Microsoft's automatic-update service, or by visiting microsoft.com/security.

One of the fixes Microsoft marked "critical," its highest severity rating, would thwart an attacker from infecting all the PCs on a local network after gaining access to just one. In other words, even if most people in the office are good at avoiding clicking on unknown links or opening mysterious documents, if one person's computer is compromised the attacker could take over the rest.

The software maker also fixed flaws in its Excel and Word software that would give an attacker control of a PC if its owner opened a tainted spreadsheet or document.

It also patched problems in several older versions of Windows, including XP and Vista, that would give an attacker who already has control of a computer access to more of its functions.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Q: My Dell Windows XP laptop keeps showing the same "Windows Installer" prompt telling me to insert a disc I don't have to run some Sonic program. How do I stop it?

A: Two readers asked a version of this question—the other wanted to know if it was a scareware scam—even though a solution for this problem arrived months ago.

You can blame it on a botched installation of a Roxio disc-writing utility that Dell shipped on some systems. A tech-support article at its site (the address is too long to print, but a search for "Sonic Update Manager" at dell.com should yield a link to the page) offers two workarounds. One is to run a "hotfix" file from Roxio's site; the other is to use Microsoft's Windows Installer CleanUp Utility, which may help other software foul-ups.

This is yet another reason to hate the lame software bundled with most Windows computers: Too often, it breaks down in ways that developers fix too late and then fail to document clearly.

Sadly, PC vendors don't seem to be using Windows 7's arrival as an excuse to clean up their act. The machines I saw on display at a Best Buy last week were as encrusted with junk software as ever.

■■■

Q: Facebook sent me an e-mail asking me to update my account. Should I?

A: That e-mail is just another phishing fraud luring you to a phony, look-alike site. Type in a real or made-up Facebook password, and it will ask you to run a Windows-only "update tool" that will only hijack your PC. Ignore links in e-mails asking you to reset passwords; type a site's address into a browser yourself and then try logging in to see if there's a real problem.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP2010-CDA-02

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 30, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
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SUBMISSION / OPENING DATE: NOVEMBER 25, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWENTY-SEVEN (27) BATTERY BACK-UP 625VA, EIGHT (8) 24 PORT NETWORK SWITCH, EIGHTEEN (18) COMPUTER HARDWARE UPGRADE AND ONE (1) 250 GB EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH"

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THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of ANSIHNA SOLOMON TAITINGFONG, Deceased.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0457) NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wells Fargo Financial Saipan, Inc., has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Ansihna Solomon Taitingfong, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Tuesday, January 5, 2010, at the hour of 1:30p.m.

NOTICE IS also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Ansihna Solomon Taitingfong, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, attorney for Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED, this 5th day of November, 2009:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Atty. Robert Myers (F0365)
The Law Office of RH Myers Jr
PO Box 5190 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. 234-3184 x104
Fax. 234-3077

Counsel for Administratrix
ANGELICA SABLAN IBA

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: DAVID SALAS SABLAN, Decedent.) Case No. 01-0324-CV

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

Date: November 24, 2009
Time: 9:00 am
Judge: Hon. Ramona V. Manglona

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Administratrix has filed a petition for final distribution in this Estate, which shall be heard on November 24, 2009 at 9:00 am in the Commonwealth Superior Court. All interested persons should come and attend the hearing.

DATED this 25th day of September, 2009.

/s/ Clerk of Court
Commonwealth Superior Court

Off the Wall

Irishman wins €46,000 after island home disappears

DUBLIN (AP)—A Northern Ireland filmmaker has won €46,000 ($69,000) in damages after a judge ruled that his Irish island home was transformed into a parking lot while he was overseas for six years.

The case of 61-year-old Neville Presho captured national attention because of the apparent callousness of his treatment at the hands of the insular 170-strong community of remote Tory Island. Police investigating the vanished house found only a wall of silence.

Presho successfully sued developer and hotelier Patrick Doohan after he returned from New Zealand to find no trace of his six-bedroom property beside the island's harbor. In its place stood a septic tank and parking lot for Doohan's newly built 12-room hotel, which remains the only one today on Tory.

Presho said Tuesday that his mid-19th century stone-built home had become "a car park surrounded by boulders to prevent inebriated drivers from driving into the harbor."

High Court Justice Roderick Murphy ruled that he couldn't determine who set fire to Presho's property in 1993 or knocked down its stone walls in the following months while Presho, his wife and two children were living 11,600 miles (18,700 kilometers) away.

Presho said he resettled in New Zealand in 1988 but returned after getting a 1994 letter from Donegal County Council—the nearest local authority for a northwest island that famously bills itself as a self-governing kingdom—warning that his Tory property had suffered mysterious damage.

Presho recalled how, as the passenger ferry arrived from the Irish mainland, he searched in panic but couldn't see his home at all.

He soon learned that a neighbor with whom he had entrusted a key had permitted Doohan's construction workers to live in his home while the neighboring hotel was being built.

While gathering testimony from March to July, Murphy determined that the workers left behind flammable materials in the property and the blaze was deliberate, but he couldn't reach a conclusion as to who ignited it. Nor could he be certain who knocked down the shell that remained, although he noted that Doohan owned the only heavy construction equipment on the island.

The judge said police could not get island residents to cooperate with the investigation into the house's gradual disappearance over a nine-month period, an event that "should have been obvious to all."

The Associated Press left telephone messages for Doohan and his lawyer, John Cannon, but they were not returned. Cannon told the court Monday his client planned to appeal rather than pay.

Presho never achieved fame as a filmmaker—but produced, directed and co-wrote one that uncannily foreshadowed his own experience. His 1981 film "Desecration" told the story of an amateur archaeologist on an Irish island who toils to preserve its medieval castle, but his restoration work is destroyed by other islanders determined to develop a mine there instead.

Presho spoke wistfully Tuesday of his lost island retreat, where he could sit on his front doorstep watching the fishermen come and go in the harbor and the panorama beyond of the wild Atlantic and Donegal mainland.

But Presho said he doesn't expect to live there again. Even if he does receive his court-ordered euro46,000, that's less than a fifth of the average house price in Ireland.

"You could build a really nice chicken coop with that sort of money," he quipped, "but you'd have no money left over to buy the chickens."

1.5 lbs. of nails pulled from Peruvian's stomach

LIMA, Peru (AP)—"They call me the hardware store," says Requelme Abanto from his hospital bed in northern Peru. Doctors in the city of Cajamarca said they removed 1.5 pounds of metal from Abanto's stomach, including nails, coins, and rusted copper wire and scrap metal.

Cajamarca hospital surgeon Carlos Delgado told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he's never seen anything like what he found in last week's operation.

"We went in thinking it could be appendicitis, but weren't we surprised by what we found—a hole in his stomach," Delgado said.

Delgado said specialists are examining Abanto's mental health as he recovers.

The 26-year-old construction worker ate the metal for months, and told Peru's Channel 9 television that he may now do it in public "as sport."

"I swallowed 17 nails in February and didn't die," he said. "Five-inch nails, all in one day."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Judge orders Va. man to live in his neglected home

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A Richmond man will have to live more than a month in one of his neglected rental houses as punishment for failing to maintain his properties. Oliver Lawrence was sentenced Monday to 30 days in jail, followed by 40 days in home incarceration at a small, single-story house owned by his company, Bayou Properties. He also was fined more than $177,000. Lawrence was convicted on more than 180 property-maintenance violations. Until recently, the house was unsecured and had a shed littered with needles, other drug paraphernalia and feces, according to a city inspector. Richmond officials have been fighting with Lawrence over the condition of his properties for more than two years. He owns 150 to 300 properties, according to city estimates.

NC school officials nix cash-for-grades fundraiser

GOLDSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Administrators have nixed a North Carolina middle school's cash-for-grades fundraiser. The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Wednesday that Wayne County school administrators have halted the plan at Rosewood Middle School in Goldsboro. The school was offering 20 test points to students in exchange for a $20 donation. Rosewood principal Susie Shepherd had said that she approved the idea after a parent advisory council presented it as a way to raise money. Shepherd rejected the suggestion that extra points on two tests could make a difference in a final grade. School district administrators said no extra credit will be awarded and that any donated money will be returned.

Police: Wife pulls knife on husband over vodka

CLAWSON, Mich. (AP)—Police said a woman threatened her husband with a 7-inch knife after he threw away her bottle of vodka as she slept in their suburban Detroit home. Clawson police Lt. Scott Sarvello told The Daily Tribune of Royal Oak the man returned home from work Sunday night to find his wife sleeping with a bottle of vodka. He threw away the bottle. Sarvello said the 34-year-old woman woke up, argued with her husband, went back to sleep, then got up again and grabbed a knife from the kitchen to force him to get her vodka or give her the car keys. Police said the man held her at bay with a chair while he called 911. She was arrested and found to have a blood-alcohol level of 0.23 percent. She was arraigned Tuesday on a felony charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Wedding ring found in dump amid 10 tons of trash

PARSIPPANY, N.J. (AP)—Sanitation workers sorted through 10 tons of trash to recover a wedding ring accidentally thrown away by a New Jersey couple. Bridget Pericolo of Parsippany had placed the ring in a cup that her husband, Angelo, threw out with the garbage before leaving for work Monday morning. When he realized the mistake, he contacted the town's sanitation supervisor, who suggested coming by the local dump. Later in the day, supervisor Michael Brotons and sanitation workers Edgar Lopez and Joseph McGee dug through the refuse until they found the garbage bag that Angelo Pericolo had thrown away. The Pericolos recently celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary.

Australian men undress and soap up at a car wash

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—It was just a routine car wash. Except there was no car—and no clothing. Four Australian men who allegedly undressed and soaped up at a car wash have been charged with exposure and public nuisance. Police said the men paid for a wash before stripping nude and cleaning themselves in the soapy water while their female companions took photos. Police arrived mid-cycle after being called Sunday by Smart Wash operators in the town of Biloela in Queensland state. The four men are due to appear in court next month. Police and the car wash operator warned the public against mimicking the men, with police saying Tuesday the high-pressure washer could be dangerous, especially if it goes in the eyes.

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John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Never before has a date in history been so significant to so many cultures, so many religions, scientists, and governments. A global cataclysm brings an end to the world and tells of the heroic struggle of the survivors.

A Christmas Carol
Friday 4:25 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:00
Jim Carrey, Robin Wright Penn
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Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
George Clooney, Jeff Bridges
Thriller, Adaptation • Rated R

The Fourth Kind
Friday 4:00 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:10 4:00 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:10 4:00 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:10
Milla Jovovich, Will Patton
Thriller • Rated PG 13

Michael Jackson's This Is It
Friday 4:30 7:15 9:35
Saturday 1:00 4:30 7:15 9:35
Sunday 1:00 4:30 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:15
Michael Jackson
Musical, Documentary • Rated PG

The Box
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Cameron Diaz, James Marsden
Thriller, Horror • Rated PG 13

Astro Boy
Friday 4:15
Saturday 1:15 4:15
Sunday 1:15 4:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15
Freddie Highmore, Nicolas Cage
Action, Comedy • Rated PG

Vampire's Assistant
Friday 7:25 10:00
Saturday 7:25 10:00
Sunday 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 7:25
John C. Reilly, Chris Mssoglia
Adventure, Fantasy, Children • Rated PG 13

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Life & Style

Perry: Steven Tyler taking time off from Aerosmith

NEW YORK (AP)—Aerosmith's guitarist Joe Perry says the future of the band is still uncertain.

Perry said Wednesday that he thinks front man Steven Tyler wants to take some time off from the band—even though the two appeared together on a New York stage.

"As it stands, Steven wants to take a couple years off and do some of whatever he wants to do and the rest of the band wants to keep working," Perry said in a telephone interview.

"The band is a really well-oiled machine and we're going to work one way or another and I don't know what form that's going to take," he added.

Tyler's publicist, Kim Estlund, said the 61-year-old rock star was not going to issue a statement on Perry's recent comments.

The status of the band—which also includes Joey Kramer, Brad Whitford and Tom Hamilton—has been the topic of rumors since Tyler was quoted as saying he was considering a solo career. Perry tweeted late Monday that Aerosmith was "not splitting up" but "looking for a new singer to work with."

The rumors of a potential break-up seemed to be quashed Tuesday night when Tyler joined Perry and his band for their encore at a concert in New York City. According to Rolling Stone and Billboard magazines, Tyler told the crowd: "I am not leaving Aerosmith" and then he and Perry performed "Walk This Way."

But in his interview, Perry said he was stunned to hear that Tyler was outside his dressing room as he rested before the encore. He said he hadn't been in recent contact with Tyler.

"He was the last person I expected to see," Perry said. "You never know with him. Every time I figure I've got him sussed, he always does just the opposite."

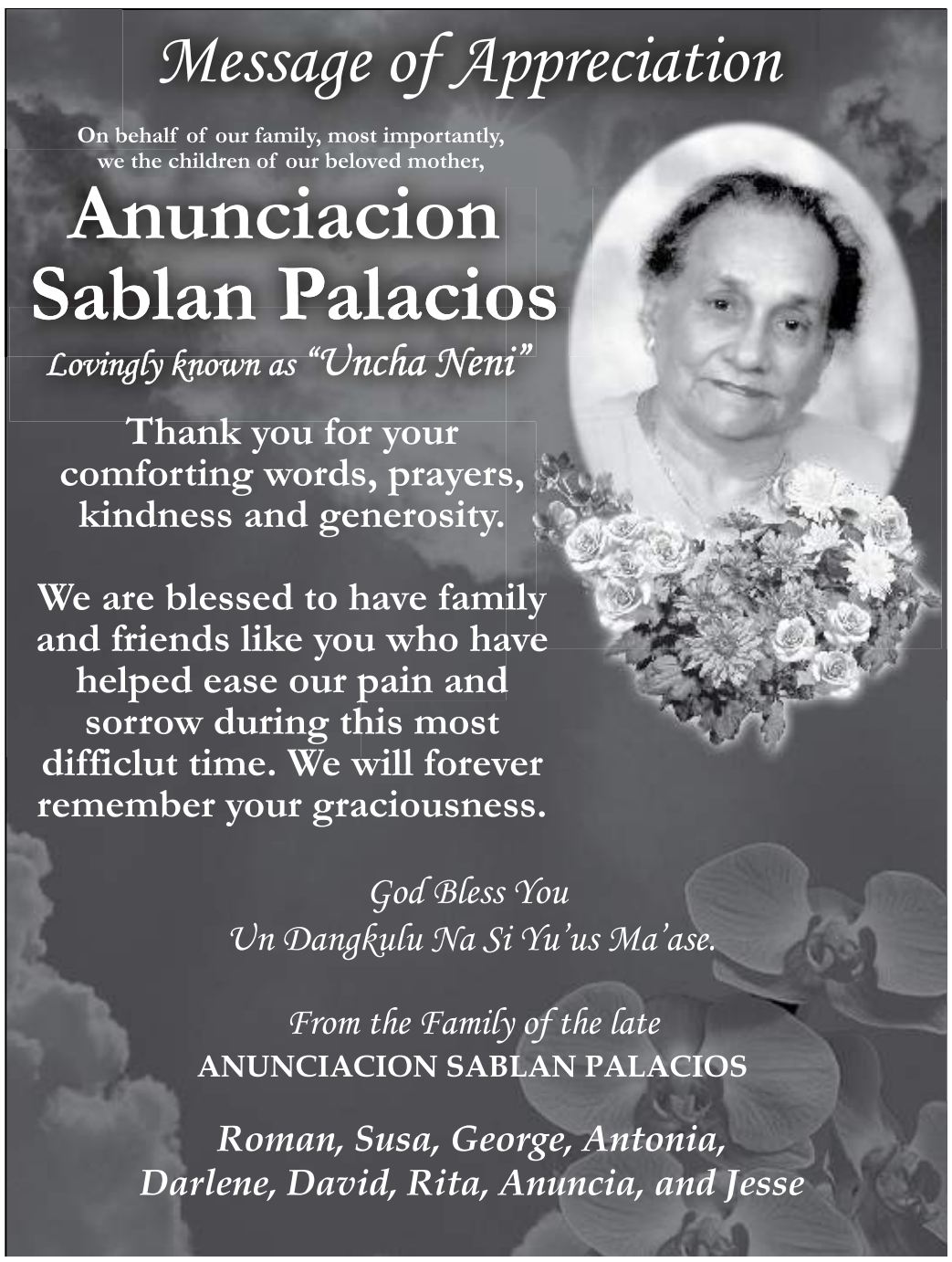
Of Tyler, Perry added: "I think over the last few years he's just kind of drifted away from the band's goals and plans, and really without communicating that stuff to the guys."

HUMANITIES DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ron Smith of Angil Design, left, presents a $600 donation to NMI Council for the Humanities board chair Charles P. Reyes Jr. and the Council's development committee chair Janet H. King. Smith's donation will be used by the Council to support its public programs and educational initiatives over the coming year.

JOETEN WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winner for the 25 cu. ft. upright freezer, Remedio Pangelinan, center, w/daughter Debra Guerrero, JCT Buyer/Manager, Alvin Adriano, Joeten Ace Hardware Gualo Rai Manager & Maria Belibei, Joeten Ace Hardware Gualo Rai Supervisor.


Message of Appreciation
On behalf of our family, most importantly, we the children of our beloved mother,
Anunciacion Sablan Palacios
Lovingly known as "Uncha Neni"
Thank you for your comforting words, prayers, kindness and generosity.
We are blessed to have family and friends like you who have helped ease our pain and sorrow during this most difficlut time. We will forever remember your graciousness.
God Bless You
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
From the Family of the late
ANUNCIACION SABLAN PALACIOS
Roman, Susa, George, Antonia, Darlene, David, Rita, Anuncia, and Jesse

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy 2nd birthday to Ha'ane Isabella Salas, who is shown here with her mom, Anniebell. We love you! Greetings come from Nathan, Honeyka, and Hannah Salas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Tita Nora, who is celebrating her birthday tomorrow, Nov. 14, 2009. May God bless you with more success and long life! Greetings come from: Rhatskie Restaurant (233-2022) Garapan Middle Road (at the back of Gen's Barbershop); mga tapat mong kaibigan na sina Lorna and Jap, Ambit and Carol, Itos and Dana, Sue and Cris, Charey and Dante; at mga kapamilya and kapuso mo dito sa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Joey Mostales, who will be celebrating his birthday tomorrow, Nov. 14, 2009! May you have many more sexy and younger years to come! Have fun, but not too much fun without me :) Island view!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy, happy birthday to Mel Sablan, who will be celebrating his birthday tomorrow, Nov. 14, 2009! Enjoy your day and God bless! We love you! Greetings come from your Banana Dorks!

Taylor Swift makes CMA history

By CHRIS TALBOTT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—It's been Taylor Swift's year, and Wednesday was her night as she became the youngest person and the first solo female act in a decade to win the Country Music Association's entertainer of the year award.

Swift won all four awards for which she was nominated, making history on a historic night that included Darius Rucker's win as new artist.

"I'll never forget this moment because in this moment everything that I have ever wanted has just happened to me," Swift said through tears as she accepted the association's highest honor during ceremonies at Sommet Center.

The 19-year-old crossover sensation beat the biggest names in country and snapped Kenny Chesney's stranglehold on the category: He won three straight and four of the last five. She also ended Carrie Underwood's three-year dominance in the female vocalist category.

Chesney hugged and kissed Swift on the cheek, then whispered a message in her ear before she received the trophy. She called her band on stage and was the center of a group hug as fans cheered wildly, holding signs that said, "We love you, Taylor"; her father cried in the audience.

"Every single person in that category let me open up for them this year," Swift said. "Thank you all so much. I love you."

Rucker was also a fan favorite, running into the crowd during his performance of "Alright." The Hootie and the Blowfish frontman, who has sold 1 million copies of his first country album, "Learn to Live," became the second African-American to win a major individual CMA.

He joins Charley Pride, who won entertainer of the year in 1971 and male vocalist in 1971-72.

"First of all, to the fans, thank y'all for accepting me," the jubilant Rucker said. "And I think most importantly, to country radio, you took a chance on a pop singer from Charleston, S.C. Thank you so much for that!"

Swift also won album of the year for "Fearless," the top-selling CD of the year, and video of the year for "Love Story."

"You guys, this album is my diary and so to all the people who voted for me for this is a thank you for saying you love my diary because that's the nicest compliment," Swift said.

Brad Paisley, who led all nominees with seven, won two awards, including his third straight male vocalist of the year.

"This was the best time I've ever had at an awards show," said Paisley.

Lady Antebellum also won two awards, for vocal group and single of the year. The win in the vocal group category ended Rascal Flatts' six-year dominance.

"Rascal Flatts, you've inspired us for such a long time," Lady Antebellum singer Charles Kelly said. "Thank you so much for letting us be up here."

Jamey Johnson, along with James Otto and Lee Thomas Miller, won song of the year for "In Color."

"I never thought you guys would even let me come to things like this," Johnson, the country outlaw with the scruffy beard, joked as the audience laughed.

Swift kicked off the show with a playful version of her song, "Forever & Always," throwing a chair off a raised podium, sliding down a pole and dropping to her knees to the delighted cheers of the crowd.

It was the Zac Brown Band that set the room on fire, though, with its high-rev version of Charlie Daniels' "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

AP

Taylor Swift and her band react as she wins "Entertainer of the Year" award at the 43rd Annual Country Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn. Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009.

Co-hosts Paisley and Underwood opened the show with a few new songs of their own, skewering Kanye West for his interruption of Swift's MTV Video Music Awards win - "Mama don't let your babies grow up to be Kanye" - and lamenting the break up of Brooks & Dunn.

Later in the show, telecast on ABC, country novelty singer Little Jimmy Dickens interrupted Paisley after Underwood told him that "Welcome to the Future" was one of her favorite videos.

"Excuse me sir, excuse me. I'll let you finish later. Now, Brad Paisley, I know you had a nice video, but ... Taylor Swift made the best video in her time. You go girl," the diminutive Dickens said, goofing on West, who famously took the stage during Swift's acceptance speech to say that Beyonce deserved Swift's prize.

Brooks & Dunn, the best-selling duo who announced their split earlier this year, teamed with ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons on a scorching version of "Honky Tonk Stomp" in what was billed as their last performance at show.

But CMA voters weren't moved by sentiment in the vocal duo of the year category, awarding Sugarland the honor for the third straight year.

"We don't usually expect this but we obviously didn't this year," said Jennifer Nettles, half of the duo that extended an invitation to Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn to come up and speak to their fans, but they declined.

IN LOVING MEMORY

LEOPOLDO L. NARAJA

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Mother: †Christita L. Naraja
Parents In-Law: †Jesus Castro Camacho
†Rita Reyes Sablan Camacho
Brothers: †Teodoro L. Naraja
†Marcelino L. Naraja
Brothers/Sisters In-Laws:
†Anunciacion S./Jesus M. Palacios
†Antonina C./Miguel P. Tenorio
†Theodora S. Camacho
†Juana C. Pinaula
†Jesusa S. Camacho
†Vicente S. Camacho
†Antonio S. Camacho
†Vicente S. Camacho
†Antonio S. Camacho
† Ignacio S./Rosa T. Camacho
†Clark A. Toy

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Thomasa Camacho Naraja

Children/Spouses and their children:
Frances N./Jesse B.Yumul
Ralph / Joy (Vincent Jesse Sablan, Railee)
Rep. Ray / Marites (DJ, Daniel Ethan, Devin, Franchesca)
Dante / Liela (Ayden)
Reina (Rico)

Presiding Judge Robert C./Frances DLG. Naraja
Nikita (Lorenzo Robert), Matilde, Robert Jr.,
Thomasa, Leopoldo Lucas

Christy N./Jerry P. Kintol
Matthew, Nathan, Justin, Margaret, Ben

Sister: Adriana N. Sobrero & Family
Brothers: Clemente L. Naraja & Family
Esmeraldo L. Naraja & Family
Roman L. Naraja & Family
Eusebio L. Naraja & Family
Sisters-in-law: Ana C. Toy & son
Antonia C./Fermin Sakisat & Family
Caregiver: Yolanda San Juan
Special thanks: Roger Rosario
CHC Doctors & Nurses

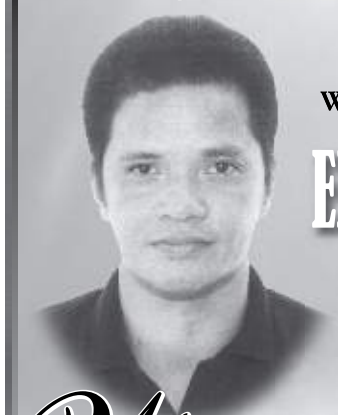
He is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended families and friends.

Nightly mass is being offered at
6:00pm at San Roque Church and
followed by rosary at 7:00pm.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Thomasa Camacho Naraja,
Children & Families

Message of Appreciation



We, the family of the late

EDGAR CELADA JASTILLANA

March 29, 1965 - October 10, 2009

Wish to extend our deepest sincere appreciation for all the kindness and words of comfort that you all have given us on the loss of our beloved Edgar. Your precious prayers, love, support, and condolences has helped us during our most difficult times and has also given us the courage to accept that although, our beloved Edgar has gone from our lives and into his final resting place, he will always live among us in our hearts. Your presence and sacrifices during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.

May God bless you all.

Thank You, Salamat Po.

Jastillana Family

Police: Boxer Mike Tyson detained at LAX

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mike Tyson allegedly hit a photographer at Los Angeles International Airport and was detained on suspicion of battery Wednesday, police said.

The paparazzo told police that Tyson struck him once, airport police spokesman Sgt. Jim Holcomb said. The photographer fell to the ground and was treated for a cut to his forehead at a hospital.

Tyson's spokeswoman Tammy Brook said the boxer was traveling with his wife and 10-month-old child Wednesday afternoon when he was attacked by an overly aggressive paparazzi. He acted in self-defense to protect his child, she said.

Tyson and the unnamed photographer both want to press charges for misdemeanor battery, police said.

"There's a lot of different versions to this story and that's all going to come out later," Holcomb said. "There were numerous witnesses and that's what this whole case is going to depend on."

Tyson was being held at the airport police station and will be booked and released later, Holcomb said.

"Right now he is very compliant, very cooperative. He's just waiting in one of our holding cells," he said.

The photographer will also be booked once he is released from the hospital, police said.

AP

This Monday, April 20, 2009 picture shows former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson in New York.

Oscars get record 20 animated submissions

AP

In this file film publicity image released by Disney/Pixar Films, animated characters Russell, left, and Carl Fredricksen are shown in a scene from the film, "Up."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A record 20 films have been submitted for best animated feature at the Academy Awards.

As long as at least 16 films qualify, there will be five nominees in the feature-length animation category.

The category has had only three nominees most years, but 2009 has been a prolific year for animation. The only previous year when there were five nominees came in 2002, when 17 animated films were submitted.

Submissions include a wide variety of styles, including the computer animation of such hits as "Up," "Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs" and "Monsters vs. Aliens"; the stop-motion animation of "Coraline," "Fantastic Mr. Fox" and "Mary and Max"; and the hand-drawn animation of "The Princess and the Frog" and "Ponyo."

Other films submitted are "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel," "Astro Boy," "Battle for Terra," "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs," "Disney's A Christmas Carol," "The Dolphin—Story of a Dreamer," "The Missing Lynx," "9," "Planet 51," "The Secret of Kells," "Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure" and "A Town Called Panic."

Some films have yet to complete a weeklong theatrical run in Los Angeles to qualify for the Oscars. Academy rules for the category also state that a "significant number of the major characters must be animated, and animation must figure in no less than 75 percent of the picture's running time."

Celine Dion not pregnant

MONTREAL (AP)—Canadian pop singer Celine Dion isn't pregnant after all.

Dion's U.S.-based publicist, Kim Jakwerth, said Wednesday the couple's doctor had initially confirmed a pregnancy in August through in vitro fertilization.

When that information started to leak to the public, Dion confirmed it. But a day later, she found out the embryo had not been implanted successfully.

Jakwerth said Dion did not immediately announce that she wasn't pregnant because she was hopeful another implantation would work, and had wanted to keep the matter private.

Jakwerth said the couple is going to keep trying.

Dion's husband Rene Angelil told the Journal de Montreal that he and Dion are disappointed but determined, and that they take comfort in the fact they already have one child.

Dion, 41, and Angelil, 67, have an eight-year-old son Rene-Charles who was conceived by in vitro fertilization.

In this Sept. 15, 2008 file photo, Canadian singer Celine Dion performs at Madison Square Garden in New York.

AP

Conductor Slatkin to skip November DSO concerts

DETROIT (AP)—Renowned conductor Leonard Slatkin will skip appearances this month with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra as he recovers from a heart attack.

Slatkin's manager R. Douglas Sheldon said Wednesday that doctors want the 65-year-old Slatkin to rest until early December.

Slatkin has canceled Nov. 19-21 and Nov. 27-29 concerts at Detroit's Orchestra Hall.

The conductor experienced chest discomfort during a Nov. 1 concert with the Rotterdam Philharmonic in the Netherlands. Doctors inserted stents to permit normal flow of blood to his heart.

He also withdrew from scheduled concerts in Prague and Pittsburgh.

Slatkin remains scheduled to conduct Holst's "The Planets" Dec. 10-13 in Detroit.

Fox's sci-fi drama 'Dollhouse' has been canceled

NEW YORK (AP)—"Dollhouse" will soon be going out of business.

The Joss Whedon fantasy drama ends after its current 13-episode order, with the series finale scheduled to air Jan. 22, according to a person familiar with the show who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss it.

Off the Fox schedule during November, it returns Dec. 4.

"Dollhouse" is about a high-tech prostitution service, with Eliza Dushku starring as an escort who can be implanted with different personalities to accommodate each client.

Created by Whedon, best known for "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," the series arrived last February with great fanfare, but struggled to find an audience. Its cancellation was first reported Wednesday by the Hollywood Reporter.

After-dark visitor next door raises neighbor's suspicions

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My neighbors, "John" and "Marcia," are such a nice couple, I'm not sure what to do. I don't know them all that well, but what's going on is extremely upsetting.

On several occasions, I have seen a woman park her car near my home after dark and walk to the back door of their house. About an hour later, I see John let her out the front door. He even has the nerve to kiss her goodbye right on the front porch! I'm sure he is slipping this tart in for sex—right under his wife's nose.

I want to tell Marcia what's going on, but I'm unsure how to go about it. I have contemplated just going over, knocking on the door and blurting it out. I have also considered writing her an anonymous letter. What's the right way to let someone know that her husband is cheating on her in her own house while she's there?

NOT NOSY, JUST CONCERNED, NEW CUMBERLAND, PA.

DEAR NOT NOSY: I strongly recommend that you mind your own business and do nothing. If there was any hanky-panky going on, I seriously doubt that John would be indulging in it while his wife was in the house—and kissing his illicit lover goodbye on their doorstep, yet. The woman may be a relative—a sister, cousin or daughter—so please do not embarrass yourself.

P.S. When someone is overly preoccupied with the sex life of a neighbor, it isn't "concern." It IS nosy, so please get a life.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 79-year-old recent widow. Shortly after I was married I had a brief, intense affair with a man at work. I'll call him "Earl."

Earl's wife, "Lillian," was in her third trimester of pregnancy and he was needy. We fell hopelessly in love and our affair continued after his baby was born. We were happy together and nothing else seemed to matter.

Somehow Lillian found out and left him. The divorce she said she'd seek would have solved our problems because I would have immediately divorced my husband, but it never happened. She still loved him, and he decided to do the "honorable thing" and reconcile with her. We swore we would love each other forever, no matter what.

Earl and Lillian moved to a city 50 miles from here and we had no further contact. My husband forgave me, and we had a good life and three children.

A friend kept me informed about Earl—where he was and what he was doing. She told me he has spent his life making up to Lillian for his "indiscretion" and treating her like a queen. She is now in a nursing home suffering with Alzheimer's. She no longer knows Earl, but he goes to see her every day.

Would it be wrong of me to get in touch with him to sympathize? I still love him. Perhaps he loves me, too. We are both old and lonely.

HOPING FOR MORE

DEAR HOPING: Please accept my condolences for the loss of your husband, but offering "sympathy" to Earl right now would not be a good idea. If your informant is correct, he has not only spent his life making amends to his wife for the affair, but he is still in love with her.

It would not be out of line to ask your friend to let Earl know that you are recently widowed, but don't hold your breath waiting for him to renew the romance. He has an important commitment he needs to see through to the end. And if you love him, you'll let him do it.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

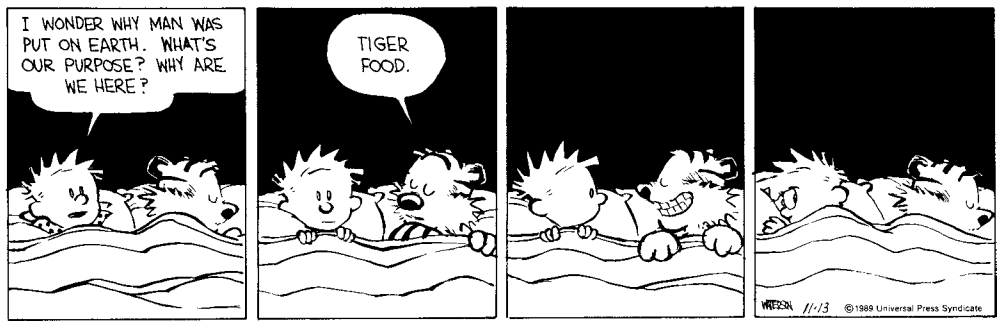
■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I WONDER WHY MAN WAS PUT ON EARTH. WHAT'S OUR PURPOSE? WHY ARE WE HERE?
TIGER FOOD.
WATTERSON 11-13 ©1989 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON, THANKS FOR SERENADING ME AT WORK WITH YOUR BANJO
YOU'RE WELCOME, LIZ
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT AGAIN THOUGH, OKAY?
WHY NOT?
THE CHIHUAHUA I WAS EXAMINING WENT INTO SHOCK
THEY ALWAYS LOOK THAT WAY
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
www.garfield.com
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Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THE NEWS SAID THE WEATHER THIS WEEKEND IS SUPPOSED TO BE NICE.
I LOVE NICE WEATHER.
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD TIME TO TACKLE SOME OF THOSE PROJECTS WE'VE BEEN PUTTING OFF.
IS "SNUGGLING" CONSIDERED A PROJECT?
SERIOUSLY, WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?
JUST A MARATHON OF AMAZING WESLEY SNIPES MOVIES AND NUMEROUS "UNMISSABLE" SPORTING EVENTS.
ADAM, PLEASE. THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
YOU'RE RIGHT... CALLING ANY WESLEY SNIPES MOVIES "AMAZING" MIGHT BE AN OVERSTATEMENT.
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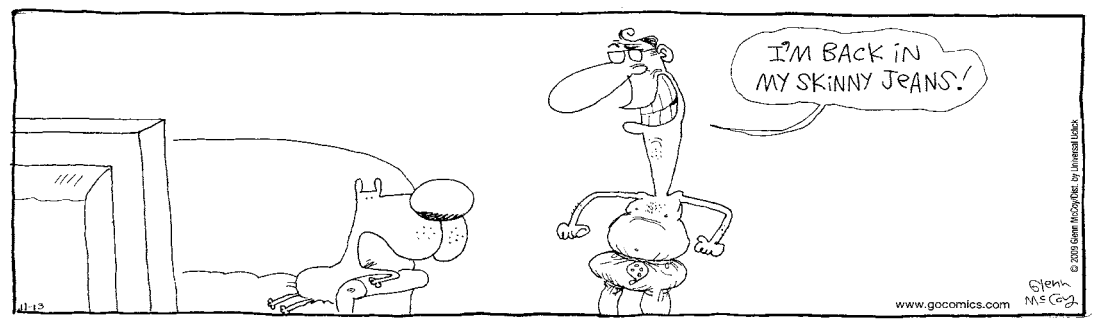
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

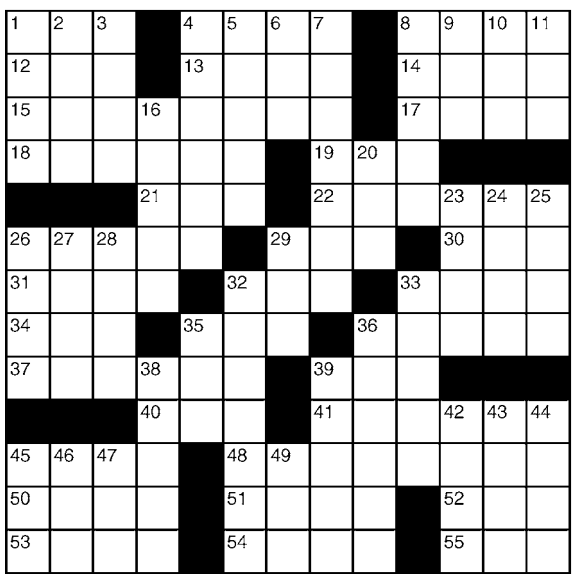
ACROSS
1 Counselors' org.
4 Coral structure
8 Low range
12 Operate
13 Command to Rover
14 October birthstone
15 Owing
17 Hinge (on)
18 St. Francis' home
19 Mine car cargo
21 Payable
22 Very popular
26 Incites
29 April payment
30 Spoonbender Geller
31 Earl Grey's family?
32 Clear the tables
33 Pleased
34 Blackbird
35 Send quickly
36 100 percent
37 Frank
39 — carte
40 "That tastes awful!"
41 Midnight rider
45 United nations
48 Bent over, as a page corner
50 Hawk-eye's home
51 Touch
52 Showbiz job
53 Air for a pair
54 Conks out
55 Inseparable

DOWN
1 Carreras solo
2 Burger joint supply
3 Picnic invaders
4 Macaque variety
5 Inducing gooseb umps
6 Preceding
7 Felt hats
8 Suffering ennui
9 Mimic
10 "My gal" of song
11 Crafty
16 Stashes
20 Mardi Gras VIP
23 Naval base?
24 Exam format
25 Neat
26 Hexagonal state
27 Former attorney general
28 Pace
29 Monkey suit
32 Tigris capital
33 Tropical fruit used for jelly
35 Visibility hindrance
36 Armadas
38 Theater ticket
39 Fight verbally
42 Therefore
43 Halter attachment
44 Advantage
45 "The Price Is Right" guess
46 "Skip to My —"
47 Have a bill
49 Japanese sash

Solution time: 25 mins.

B	A	L	D	■	C	O	D	A	■	G	E	L		
U	S	E	R	■	A	N	O	N	■	O	R	E		
L	I	V	E	S	T	O	C	K	■	T	A	G		
K	A	Y	A	K	S	■	■	L	A	S	S	O		
■	■	■	M	Y	■	A	L	E	R	T	■	■		
A	S	H	Y	■	G	U	Y	■	T	U	N	E		
S	E	A	■	■	A	D	O	■	■	C	A	R		
K	E	Y	S	■	G	I	N	■	S	K	Y	E		
■	■	S	A	Y	S	O	■	A	M	■	■	■		
O	U	T	G	O	■	■	A	S	I	D	E	S		
F	R	A	■	Y	A	R	D	S	T	I	C	K		
M	A	C	■	O	W	E	D	■	H	E	R	E		
E	L	K	■	S	E	T	S	■	S	T	U	D		

Yesterday's answer 11-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steve Zahn, 42; Whoopi Goldberg, 54; Chris Noth, 55; Joe Mantegna, 62

Happy Birthday: You don't have to take on the world—easing into any new pursuit will lead to your success. Some of the people you care for the most will be hard to deal with when putting your plans into motion. Don't settle for less because someone is telling you what you want to do is impossible. Your numbers are 3, 10, 12, 22, 30, 38, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Listen to what's being said and you won't make a costly mistake. A partnership you are in will suffer if you have taken on too many responsibilities. Consider all the angles before you jump into a binding situation. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your accomplishments will help you get a better handle on what's to come and what you are capable of doing. Be persistent and don't back down, regardless of the competition. Improve your lifestyle by the choices you make. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let negativity creep into your life. The positive changes you make may not please everyone but it's you who must be satisfied. Inspire others to join you with new ideas that lead to a brand new venture and partnership. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): The less you offer, the more everyone will want from you. Don't nag—using reverse psychology will go a long way when you are trying to get others to abide by your rules. A turn of events will enable you to see clearly where you are heading. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can count on someone who has always stood in your corner. Taking time to build friendships with the people in your community will be a bonus that will affect your home, family and property. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take things as they come and you won't be blindsided by an unexpected situation. Keep a close eye on your finances and budget accordingly. Don't set unrealistic goals because someone is challenging you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Wait to see how things pan out before you tell everyone about your plans. A family issue may leave you feeling defeated. A positive recovery will come from your ability to balance, mediate and recuperate. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You know what to do, so stop procrastinating and start to believe in your own ability. Not everyone will be as enthusiastic but that shouldn't stand in your way. Make it clear that you want to move forward and don't take no for an answer. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Talk about what you have to offer and you will find someone willing to help you get what you want. Network, travel or get involved in something that interests you and, before you know it, you'll be making positive gains. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can turn an old idea into a feasible plan

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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that can change the way you earn a living. A love relationship must be handled with passion and understanding if you want to get a good response. Positive action will bring positive results. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): An emotional concern will lead to a solution to any money problems you're experiencing. An investment or a small business venture will work if you put in the effort. You need to take action now. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Give more thought to the way you set things up at home. Without going over budget you should be able to set up a workspace, allowing you to develop something that brings in extra cash. Social activities will be fun, but don't overindulge. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a great storyteller. You will push for what you want. You are self-sufficient and strive to reach your goals, regardless of obstacles.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		2			9	3		
				2				
5					6			4
3		9		1				
	4			7			8	
				6		1		7
2			3					1
				9				
		8	4			9		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/13

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	5	4	8	1	3	2	7
3	7	2	6	5	9	4	1	8
1	4	8	2	7	3	5	9	6
9	5	4	8	3	6	1	7	2
2	8	1	7	9	5	6	3	4
7	6	3	1	2	4	9	8	5
4	2	6	3	1	7	8	5	9
8	1	9	5	4	2	7	6	3
5	3	7	9	6	8	2	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/12

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOMEMADE GREETING CARDS Solution: 8 letters

S	R	O	S	S	I	C	S	N	O	V	E	L	T	Y
K	Y	E	O	L	A	N	O	S	R	E	P	C	R	A
S	R	T	F	A	M	I	L	Y	L	R	E	A	D	D
O	S	O	T	F	O	L	D	B	E	V	S	E	C	H
P	N	E	W	E	O	R	A	P	E	R	T	O	H	T
H	O	M	A	C	R	R	A	N	E	A	M	T	C	R
I	I	A	R	A	O	P	T	V	I	P	X	E	T	I
S	T	N	E	M	H	S	I	L	L	E	B	M	E	B
T	A	E	E	E	S	N	S	E	T	F	I	G	K	M
I	R	M	U	R	N	A	X	P	E	L	Y	T	S	E
C	I	B	Q	A	P	P	E	A	R	A	N	C	E	S
A	P	O	I	A	G	N	A	D	S	I	Z	E	H	S
T	S	S	N	L	C	T	I	I	I	D	N	E	S	A
E	N	S	U	I	F	R	I	E	N	D	E	T	V	G
D	I	E	L	E	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	E

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Anniversary, Appearance, Birthday, Camera, Complex, Details, Effort, Embellishments, Emboss, Event, Family, Fold, Friend, Gift, Glue, Ideas, Inspirations, Memorable, Message, Name, Novelty, Paint, Paper, Pencil, Personal, Pretty, Print, Scissors, Send, Sheet, Size, Sketch, Software, Sophisticated, Style, Text, Unique, Valentine, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Confirm

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Marianas Maid Services

Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
SPARKLE
Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

JOGGING MT

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Find today's solution in this section

WHATZIT Solution: Running on empty

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
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Calvary Tan 233-5641 Open 7 Days a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

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MD.J.ALAM TAXI Service Taxi#1618
24-HOUR SERVICE • Cell: (670) 285-5549

LOST PASSPORT
Name : Jin Chengyun
Passport No. : P1586013
Date of Birth : Mar. 24, 1965
Contact No. : 483-8085

LOST PASSPORT
Name : Wen Huazi
Passport No. : G04440939
Date of Birth : July 17, 1973
Contact No. : 483-8085

LOST PASSPORT
Name : Shi Jin Ping
Passport No. : G02831138
Date of Birth : Oct. 15, 1963
Contact No. : 285-8321

LOST PASSPORT
Name : Yang Hong Jie
Passport No. : G04857365
Date of Birth : Sept. 27, 1974
Contact No. : 285-8321

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Executive Director

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) is seeking applications for the position of Executive Director.

The Executive Director will be committed and responsible for leading the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) within the strategic framework set by the NMASA Board of Directors, through the day-to-day management of NMASA, the development and implementation of initiatives in sport, and in identifying and responding to the challenges within the sports sector.

Key responsibilities include:
- Providing leadership in establishing and implementing national sport strategies to improve participation in organized sport, at the community level, by all the people of the Northern Marianas.
- Creating a successful ongoing Corporate Sponsorship, Marketing and Merchandising Program.
- Creating an effective fundraising program to ensure Team Marianas is fully represented at the Micronesian and Pacific (Mini) Games.
- Developing funding and capacity building partnerships for NMASA with international and regional sports agencies.
- Planning and Organizing the Marianas Games for 2010 and 2011, and working with the Marianas Games Council.
- Attracting international events to the Northern Marianas by working with the Marianas Visitors Authority and national sports federations.
- Organizing Team Marianas to achieve excellence in sports performance to its full potential.
- Developing NMASA and Team Marianas brands and managing an effective communications program for NMASA.
- Driving support for appropriate governance and strategic planning for national sporting federations.
- Providing leadership in developing partnership and capacity building with sports organizations and stakeholders in other sectors (such as health, education, and community services).
- Ensuring that all accountability, reporting and compliance requirements are met.

Suitable applicants with relevant tertiary qualifications and experience in sports management, management and / or business, demonstrated experience in planning, organizing and administration of sports and events, a strong marketing and communications background with the capacity to think and plan at the strategic level and act at the operational level, and demonstrated success with corporate sector fundraising with a proven commercial outlook will be given priority in the selection process.

Applicants should have a sound knowledge of Northern Marianas sports, its challenges, and an understanding of its place in Northern Marianas society and culture, knowledge of the NMASA's and Government's objectives for sport and physical activity, and with proven experience in sports and related activities.

Applicants should exemplify personal drive, proactiveness and high energy, have the proven ability to shape strategic thinking and achieve results, demonstrate the ability to cultivate strong working relationships, and the ability to communicate, and have demonstrated success in achieving high level credibility with stakeholders and the ability to relate effectively to people at all levels.

An attractive package commensurate with the seniority of the role will be available to the successful candidate. However, it must be noted that the Executive Director will be directly involved in raising funds that support ongoing employment of the Executive Director.

Resumes with names and contact details of three (3) references, should be sent to the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) no later than November 30th, 2009. Documents will not be returned.

By hand: Law Offices Michael A. White – 2nd Floor, Joeten Susupe Commercial Building
By mail: Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (NMASA)
P.O. Box 502476
Saipan MP 96950
By email: mwhite@saipan.com
Closing date: 30th November 2009

JOB OPPORTUNITY $$$

"Get Paid To Go Shopping? Mystery shoppers do" – apply online at www.internationalservicecheck.com

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for a 3-4 bedroom concrete house for a single family with preferring in the areas of Garapan, Navy Hill, China Town or nearby. Please call Mr. Gu at 989-0336. Thank you.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

TJM Lawn Care Services
WE OFFER $30.00 per house 500 sqm (negotiable)
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Tel: 288-8897 • Cel: 287-8896

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www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITY (FOR PSS EMPLOYESS ONLY) EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System's Human Resources shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-078** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **EDUCATION SPECIALIST V**
(Director of Academic Programs With Articulation, Americorps)
Pay Level/Step: **35 / 01-12** Per Annum Salary: **$28,807.51 - $49,266.21**
Opening Date: **November 5, 2009** Closing Date: **November 20, 2009**
Location: **PSS – Associate Commissioner of Education for Curriculum & Instruction Services Office**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements:
Graduation from US accredited college or university with a Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus at least six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System's Human Resources shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-2009-085** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
Position Title: **ARCHITECT / ENGINEER**
Pay Level/Step: **UNGRADED** Per Annum Salary: **$50,000.00**
Opening Date: **November 5, 2009** Closing Date: **November 20, 2009**
Location: **PSS – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**
Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays
Minimum Requirements:

Graduation from US accredited college or university with a BA degree in Architecture, Civil Engineering, or related field, and must be CNMI Licensed, plus at least three (3) years experience in construction management, architecture, or related field.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd FLOOR RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 09-035

"MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS SECURITY SERVICES"

The Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for One (1) Year Campus Security Services for Marianas High School Campus on the island of Saipan located in the CNMI. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be placed in a sealed envelope maked "IFB # 09-035" containing (1) original and three(3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than November 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp. Questions shall be submitted no later than November 17, 2009.

All bids shall become the property of the Public School System.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-025

"REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement of a **REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**. The Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Proposals should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"PSS RFP # 09-025"** containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and be submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office no later than Friday, December 4, 2009 at 3:00 P.M. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Mr. Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer at fax # (670) 664-3797 or email to **thornburght@pss.cnmi.mp**. Questions must be submitted no later than Tuesday, November 24, 2009.

Proposers are requested to submit a copy of their CNMI Business License with their proposal.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

LeBron, Shaq help Cavs to 102-93 win over Magic

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—LeBron James scored 36 points, Shaquille O'Neal provided an inside presence and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Orlando Magic 102-93 on Wednesday night in a rematch of the Eastern Conference finals.

Only this one had a different look.

O'Neal battled boos and bruises to score 10 points and keep Dwight Howard in foul trouble for most of the night, giving James and Co. all the inside strength they sorely lacked last season. Mo Williams added 28 points to help the Cavs take a 15-point halftime lead, go ahead by 20 after three quarters and roll to an easy victory.

"I think we just played with a sense of urgency," James said. "We're in attack mode."

Vince Carter had 29 points, and Howard had only 11 points for the Magic. Orlando was without suspended All-Star forward Rashard Lewis, and his replacement, Ryan Anderson, who missed the game with a sprained right ankle.

Cleveland's Delonte West was inactive for the game for what coach Mike Brown said afterward was an "internal matter."

But this one had all the muscle and tussle.

O'Neal and Howard were banging bodies on the inside, their 500 pounds of combined weight jostling, their powerful elbows swinging large with every move. Each team even went with two centers on the floor—Howard and Marcin Gortat, O'Neal and Zydrunas Ilgauskas—at the same time for stretches that crowded the paint and made rebounds a physical punishment.

It was Superman vs. Superman. Past vs. Present.

Showered with boos on every touch, O'Neal gave glimpses that he could be Cleveland's missing piece even though the 37-year-old is no longer the unstoppable force that put the Magic franchise on the map. But he helped put Howard in foul trouble for most of the first half, helping the Cavs build a 66-51 halftime lead.

The former Magic big man soaked up all the attention, too. He had amped-up Amway Arena at his pulse, even leaving his hand up a little longer after making free throws and scoffing at the Superman anthem played after Howard's dunks.

"I think Shaq always plays a big game when he's matched up against one of the big centers," Williams said.

Orlando fans have long considered O'Neal their biggest villain.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers center Shaquille O'Neal (33) drives to the basket between Orlando Magic's Dwight Howard, left, and Marcin Gortat, of Poland, during the Cavaliers' 102-93 victory in an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2009, in Orlando, Fla.

Celtics 105, Jazz 86

At Boston, the Celtics beat Utah to match their 8-1 start from their NBA title-winning season two years ago.

Rajon Rondo had 14 points and 11 assists, Kevin Garnett scored 18 points, Paul Pierce had 13 and Ray Allen 15 for the Celtics.

Deron Williams, who was a game-time decision because of a bruised left calf, had 13 points, seven rebounds and four assists in 33 minutes for Utah.

Suns 124, Hornets 104

At Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire and Steve Nash combined to hit all eight of their first-quarter shots as Phoenix routed New Orleans to improve to 8-1, matching Boston for the best record in the NBA

Stoudemire finished with 21 points, Grant Hill had 18, and Nash had 12 points and 10 assists. The victory was the Suns' 12th straight at home, including nine last season. Chris Paul led New Orleans with 25 points.

Hawks 114, Knicks 101

At New York, Al Horford scored a season-high 25 points and had nine rebounds, and Atlanta overcame a 14-point deficit to send New York to its fifth straight loss.

Josh Smith added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Hawks. Toney Douglas scored a season-high 23 points in his first start for the Knicks (1-8), off to their worst start since also dropping eight of nine in 2002.

Spurs 92, Mavericks 83

At San Antonio, Richard Jefferson scored 29 points as San Antonio survived another game without the injured Tony Parker and Tim Duncan.

Manu Ginobili had 13 points in the first meeting between the Texas rivals since the Mavericks cruised past the ailing Spurs in the first round of the playoffs last season.

Dirk Nowitzki had 29 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas.

76ers 82, Nets 79

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Marreese Speights had a go-ahead three-point play with 1:10 to play as Philadelphia extended New Jersey's worst start to 0-8.

Thaddeus Young had 20 points to lead the 76ers, and Speights finished with 19 points and nine rebounds. Brook Lopez had 23 points and 14 rebounds for the Nets.

Trail Blazers 107, Timberwolves 84

At Minneapolis, Greg Oden Oden had 18 points and 11 rebounds in three quarters, and Rudy Fernandez added 15 points for Portland.

The Blazers have won four in a row and are off to their best start since 1999 at 6-3. Jonny Flynn had 15 points and six rebounds for Minnesota. The Timberwolves have lost eight in a row since a season-opening win over New Jersey.

Pacers 108, Warriors 94

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger scored 31 points and had a career-high 16 rebounds to lead Indiana to its third straight victory.

Roy Hibbert and Earl Watson each added 16 points for the Pacers. Corey Maggette led Golden State with 21 points, and Anthony Randolph had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Raptors 99, Bulls 89

At Toronto, Chris Bosh had 28 points and 11 rebounds, and Jose Calderon scored 18 points to help Toronto even its record at 4-4.

Andrea Bargnani added 16 points for the Raptors. Luol Deng and Taj Ginbson each scored 18 points for Chicago, 10 for 40 from the field in the second half.

Bucks 108, Nuggets 102

At Milwaukee, rookie Brandon Jennings scored 14 of his 32 points in the fourth quarter, and Andrew Bogut added 23 points and 10 rebounds for Milwaukee.

Jennings also had nine assists. Carmelo Anthony had 32 points and 10 rebounds for Denver, and Chauncey Billups added 19 points.

Pistons 98, Bobcats 75

At Auburn Hills, Michigan, Charlie Villanueva had a season-high 30 points for Detroit, outscoring Charlotte 18-12 by himself in the third quarter.

Gerald Wallace had 12 points for the Bobcats.

Rockets 104, Grizzlies 79

At Houston, Luis Scola had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and Carl Landry had 20 points for Houston, sending Memphis to its seventh straight loss.

O.J. Mayo led the Grizzlies with 19 points.

Thunder 83, Clippers 79

At Los Angeles, Kevin Durant hit the go-ahead jump shot from the left corner with 38 seconds left for two of his 30 points as Oklahoma City ended a two-game road losing skid.

Chris Kaman led the Clippers with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

LeBron says he's done talking about free agency

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Frustrated by repeated questions, LeBron James said he won't talk about his possible free agency next summer until after this season.

The Cleveland star and reigning NBA MVP said Wednesday night before the Cavaliers' victory over Orlando that all the talk is "getting old."

James cut off interviews after being hit with questions about free agency and teaming with Miami's Dwyane Wade, who has said the two have discussed forming a mega-tandem.

"This free agent talk is getting old. It's getting old and I think I'm going to stop. Tonight will be the last time I answer any more free agent questions until the offseason," James said.

"I think I owe it to myself, and I owe it to my teammates. It's just getting old. I'm focusing on this season, and this is going to be a really good season for us. I don't want anymore distractions for my teammates, for my organization, for my family. This will be the last time I answer a free agent question for the rest of the year."

James can opt out of his contract at the end of this season and become a free agent. He has been overloaded with questions about his plans and has continued to say that winning is most important.

Teams have even been slicing payroll in anticipation of the 2010 summer, when James and Wade are among the All-Stars who can opt out of their contracts. James has never hinted that he would leave Cleveland, about 30 miles from his hometown of Akron.

But he's never said he would stay, either.

Although James insisted that he wouldn't talk about the subject again this season, that doesn't mean he won't be asked. Cleveland plays at Miami on Thursday, and the South Florida media will surely be searching for more answers.

James' method received an early test.

After Cleveland's 102-93 win over the Magic, a reporter asked him if he made the decision to stop answering questions in the spur of the moment or if it was planned ahead of time.

James responded: "Next question."

Wade told reporters earlier Wednesday that the pair have "talked about" going to the same team, a comment the Heat star has floated out before. But that's all it's been - talk among friends.

"It's a long shot, no question about it, it's a long shot," Wade told reporters in Miami. "I mean, I'm in Miami, he's in Cleveland. He's been put in a position in Cleveland where he has the opportunity to compete for a championship now.

"And I'm in Miami, where I've won a championship and this is where I love to be. So it's not like we're both looking over our shoulders, saying, 'I want to get out of here.' It's a long shot, but, at the end of the day, it is a shot."

Favre says he thinks his groin injury will be fine

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—The latest injury Brett Favre must fight to maintain his record durability streak is a pulled groin muscle. Back from his bye week, Favre said he believes he'll be fine.

Favre said he was hurt in practice while rolling out during a drill two weeks ago and aggravated the injury in pregame warmups at Green Bay on Nov. 1. The Vikings didn't play last week, giving their 40-year-old quarterback extra time to heal.

"It was a concern for the game. I made it through. With a week's rest I think I'll be fine," Favre said Wednesday. "But I'm not going to make it a bigger issue than it is. It's kind of a new thing for me. To play 18 some-odd years and not have anything like that that probably worried me more than anything. But I think I'll be fine."

Favre said the injury bothered him during the Packers game, but "not as bad" as he feared it might. He told coach Brad Childress, offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell and backup quarterback Tarvaris Jackson to be ready in case he couldn't finish the game.

"I didn't want to have to go into every drive or leave the huddle and say, 'I have to play a little bit cautious this way,' or 'I hope I can get this handoff out there,'" Favre said.

Favre has seemed to relish the wounded warrior persona throughout his career, and he sure didn't appear affected by the injury in Green Bay. He threw four touchdown passes in Minnesota's 38-26 victory.

"I feel pretty good, mentally and physically. Not great, but I don't know too many guys that would say that," Favre said.

Favre has been on the injury report a few times this season for other body parts, but so far he has held up relatively well after having offseason surgery to fix a partially torn biceps in his throwing arm.

Tiger opens with a 66 in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Tiger Woods lived up to eight months of anticipation in Australia on Thursday by running off three straight birdies late in his round of a 6-under 66 that put him atop the leaderboard in the Australian Masters.

Playing for the first time Down Under in 11 years, before an enormous gallery only seen at major championships, Woods putted for birdie on every hole until the last one. He pulled his drive into a tea tree, chopped out into the rough and took two putts from 40 feet for his lone bogey.

Among early starters, Woods was tied with James Nitties of Australia, coming off his rookie season on the PGA Tour, and Branden Grace of South Africa.

Woods missed only two fairways in a round that was relatively free of stress. He hit driver off the tee five times and except for the final hole, kept it in play and away from the trouble. Woods chose to lay back from the bunkers on several of the short par 4s at Kingston Heath, and a couple of times hit poor shots or played purposely away from the flags.

"You play for what it's giving you," Woods said. "I didn't have to change my game plan on any hole."

He made his move toward the end of the round, hitting 3-wood to the 294-yard sixth hole that held its line to the left of the bunkers and came up just short of the green, leaving an easy chip to a foot. After a poor tee shot left him a bad angle to the green on the seventh, Woods hit 8-iron over the corner of trees to 20 feet for another birdie, then hit 8-iron to 7 feet on No. 8 to set up his third straight birdie.

Far more impressive than the golf, however, was the gallery.

Traffic was backed up along Kingston Road outside the club for miles in the hour before Woods tee off.

"I know," he said. "I was stuck in it, too."

The tournament has been a sellout for months, and it remains peculiar to see a ticket window at an Australian golf tournament with a sign that says "Sold out." The cap was at 100,000 tickets for the week, and while it was impossible for 25,000 fans to stay on one hole, whoever couldn't fit in moved ahead to the next couple of holes.

That turned into a treat for the likes of Seve Benson, playing in the group ahead of Woods, feeling like a rock star himself.

"It was amazing," Benson said after a 70. "After a couple of holes, you get used to it. But then you realize that they were not on the hole before. They had been there for awhile waiting."

It was a little different behind Woods, as marshals allowed the gallery to stop in the middle of crossing areas so that they fans entirely circled every green on which Woods, defending champion Rod Pampling and Craig Parry were putting.

Parry holed a 50-foot putt on the fourth and shot 70, while Pampling had a 71.

Nitties was among those in the group behind Woods, and he couldn't believe when his group was told they were behind the clock. He said tour officials were more lenient when they realized the players had to wait for fans ahead of them to clear the crossing zones before they could tee off on par 4s.

"If we hit a good drive, we could hit the people," Nitties said. "It was difficult at times, hitting at moving targets. But I thought it would be more of a circus than it was."

Among those in the gallery was Woods' mother, Kultida, who usually only travels to Augusta National and Sherwood Country Club for her son's tournament in December.

Woods, coming off a tie for sixth in Shanghai last week, had few complaints about his round. He twice missed birdie putts inside 8 feet, and spent a large part of his round lag putting.

"My iron game certainly wasn't sharp," he said. "I didn't take on some of the pins. And others were just bad shots."

Cameron Percy and Doug Holloway were at 67, while Greg Chalmers was in the group at 68.

Geoff Ogilvy, the only other player besides Woods in the top 50 at Kingston Heath, took double bogey on his final hole for a 72.

AP

Tiger Woods from the U.S. puts during the first round the Australian Masters golf tournament at Kingston Heath Golf Club, Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Nov. 12, 2009.

Zimmerman wins Gold Glove for Nationals

NEW YORK (AP)—That travel team back in Virginia a decade ago must have played great defense on the left side of the infield.

Ryan Zimmerman succeeded boyhood friend David Wright as the National League's Gold Glove third baseman on Wednesday. In high school, when Zimmerman was a shortstop, the two played together on a youth team.

"Hopefully if we're lucky enough to continue doing what we're doing, this will be a yearly thing," Zimmerman said. "It's fun for us."

A college teammate from the University of Virginia, Arizona's Mark Reynolds, is competing with Zimmerman for a Silver Slugger award, to be announced Thursday.

"We all push each other to work harder," said Zimmerman, who had 33 homers and 106 RBIs.

Zimmerman led major league third basemen with 325 assists and became only the second Washington player to win the award, joining catcher Earl Battey of the original Senators in 1960. He also became the second infielder to win a Gold Glove from a team with the worst fielding percentage in the majors, following Texas shortstop Michael Young last year.

The Nationals led the major leagues with 143 errors.

"Our team as a whole needs to realize that if we want to win we've got to play defense," Zimmerman said. "We need to take more responsibility on the defensive side of the ball and realize that if we want to start winning that, you know, that's just as much a part of winning as hitting and scoring runs."

Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins earned his third consecutive Gold Glove and Phillies center fielder Shane Victorino won for the second straight time.

"Defense is a very important part of my game, and it truly is an honor to be recognized as one of the best defensive players in the league," Rollins said in a statement.

Of course, the Gold Gloves were far more rewarding last year, when the Phillies won the World Series for the first time since 1980. Philadelphia failed in its attempt to repeat, losing to the New York Yankees in six games last week.

"I take a lot of pride in fielding my position," Victorino, nicknamed the Flyin' Hawaiian for his speed, said in a statement.

Rollins became the Phillies fifth three-time winner, joining Mike Schmidt (10), Garry Maddox (eight), Manny Trillo and Scott Rolen (three each).

St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina and San Diego first baseman Adrian Gonzalez also were second-time winners announced Wednesday.

"I don't think I made as many plays as I made the year before. That's because teams were more reluctant to bunt my way," Gonzalez said. "You need a couple of years of doing things over and over before coaches say there's a guy I could vote for."

Adam Wainwright became the first Cardinals pitcher to win since Joaquin Andujar in 1984 and succeeded Greg Maddux, who won his record 18th Gold Glove last year. Wainwright also is a favorite for the NL Cy Young Award after going 19-8 with a 2.63 ERA.

"I would have thought if there was one award that I would never win, or never have a chance to win, that would be a Gold Glove Award," Wainwright said. "There's probably a ton of guys that are better fielders than me."

Dodgers second baseman Orlando Hudson overcame a broken left wrist sustained in August 2008 and won for the fourth time, taking over from Cincinnati's Brandon Phillips even though Hudson lost playing time by September to teammate Ronnie Belliard. Hudson didn't make a single postseason start for Los Angeles, then became a free agent.

"I had a good season," he said. "I would be interested in coming back."

Houston outfielder Michael Bourn and Dodgers outfielder Matt Kemp also were first-time winners—and gave the NL three center fielders in the Gold Glove outfield.

Kemp had 14 assists, up from two in 2007.

"Now you're supposed to win a Gold Glove every year," he said.

Bourn concentrated on fielding during winter ball.

"When I went to the Dominican, I didn't just try to work on my offense. I tried to work on my defense as well," he said. "It helps me a little bit more over there because the ground's a little bit rough and you have harder bounces and so you've got to get used to playing those tough bounces. When it comes to a regular field it made it seem a little easier for me."

Wright and his New York Mets teammate, center fielder Carlos Beltran, were dropped from the Gold Glove team. Beltran was sidelined for much of the season. Outfielder Nate McLouth, traded from Pittsburgh to Atlanta in June, also missed out.

Gonzalez, Molina, Rollins and Wainwright each earned $50,000 bonuses, and the price of Gonzalez's 2011 club option increased by $100,000 to $5.7 million. Bourn and Victorino each earned $25,000 bonuses. Hudson and Kemp didn't have bonus provisions in their contracts.

Rawlings began presenting Gold Gloves in 1957. Managers and coaches voted on players in their own leagues before the regular season ended but couldn't select members of their own teams.

American League winners were announced Tuesday.

Griffey stays with Mariners for 2010

SEATTLE (AP)—Junior's back in Seattle, one more time.

Ken Griffey Jr. and the Mariners agreed Wednesday to another one-year contract that will keep the popular player in town for what could be his final season.

Griffey, who turns 40 on Nov. 21, was guaranteed $2 million when he signed to return to Seattle for the 2009 season and had the chance to earn more in bonuses.

"The framework of this year's contract is similar to last year's," Griffey's agent, Brian Goldberg, said by telephone.

It is believed Griffey will get a slightly higher base salary, with fewer incentives based upon plate appearances and Mariners home attendance. He earned $1.15 million of a possible $3 million in bonuses from this year's contract.

He is likely to again be a part-time designated hitter in his 22nd major league season since he broke in as a grinning Mariners teenager.

"The fact that Junior is ending up his career in Seattle is very special," Goldberg said. "He is willing to perform any role."

Griffey figures to again be the leader of a rising team that last season became the 13th club since 1901 to finish with a winning record the year after losing 100 games.

"He's open to anything," Mariners general manager Jack Zduriencik said in a telephone interview from baseball's GM meetings in Chicago. "What he said was, `I'd like to be a part of this. Hey, I'm the part of a 25-man club. Let the pieces fall where they may ... let the manager make the decisions.' It's a real bonus to have him back."

A 10-time All-Star and the 1997 AL MVP for the Mariners, Griffey hit .214 last season with 19 homers as a part-time DH. He was limited by a swollen left knee that required a second operation in as many offseasons last month.

Griffey is No. 5 on the career home run list with 630. He said in October he would like to return if the Mariners wanted him, then never filed for free agency. He again considered staying home in Orlando, Fla., to be with his wife and three, school-aged children.

After spending his first 11 seasons with Seattle and becoming a star, he played nine more with Cincinnati and the Chicago White Sox. Griffey returned to the Mariners this year and almost single-handedly transformed what had been a fractured, bickering clubhouse with his leadership, energy and constant pranks.

"He went beyond anything that I would have expected," Zduriencik said.

Griffey turned formerly reclusive star Ichiro Suzuki into a smiling, joking teammate. He had neck ties made for road trips bearing manager Don Wakamatsu's likeness. He also had the Mariners wearing ties bearing his own likeness and the words "World's Greatest Teammate" for one midseason flight out of Seattle.

"His influence, the presence he has—there are players on this ball club who are very excited to know they are going to be teammates again with Ken Griffey Jr.," Zduriencik said.

It's Pacman's show in royal reception

BOXING

LAS VEGAS—The lull in between the official welcome laid out by the MGM Grand for the two boxers facing off on Nov. 14 spoke volumes about how this was going to be more Manny Pacquiao's show than it would be Miguel Cotto's.

But it's not like Cotto has no plans of ruining the story line.

Pacquiao walked the red carpet of the MGM Grand lobby to deafening cheers and exploding flashbulbs, and made his way up a makeshift ring adorned with a centerpiece golden lion statue to a reception fit for a king, a reception that surprised even the boxer-celebrity who is accustomed to crowds mobbing his every public move.

"I am surprised and happy that a lot of people came," Pacquiao told reporters from both print and broadcast media, who tried to squirm their way in front of him to capture a sound bite or two even as photographers and cameramen jostled for prime shots at the world's reigning pound-for-pound king.

After answers to a couple of questions, Pacquiao would turn his back and face the throng that had gathered at the hotel lobby as early as an hour or two before his late arrival to wave at fans, who would respond by shrieking "Manny! Manny!" with fervor.

Nothing personal

Pacquiao faces Cotto on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand's Garden Arena, where the Filipino ring icon will attempt to become the first boxer to win world titles in seven different weight classes.

And while Pacquiao has spoken several times about trying to win one for the victims of a string of violent storms that hit the Philippines, or writing about a page in boxing history, he insists that he has nothing against the man who will be out to stop him.

"It's nothing personal, I'm just doing my job to try and make people happy," he explained.

He's earned it all

And then, after a whirlwind of quick interviews, Pacquiao left—and almost simultaneously, so did the air inside the hotel lobby.

The moment the Filipino ring icon hit the exit, life was sucked out of the event organized by the promoting Top Rank, with the crowd—which had swelled to a couple of hundred—thinning to less than a third of its original size.

This was the audience Cotto was left to work with.

Although there was still boisterous cheering the moment Cotto arrived about half an hour later for his public appearance, the noise was seemingly amplified only by the echoes of a few rabid supporters in a relatively empty lobby. ***(PDI)***

GCA

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we will be in a good position to win today's game," she added.

MBA-A coach Ramir Trinidad would not mind calling his Stormz as the underdogs in today's title game, but he believed his wards can match-up well against GCA.

"We had proven in the regular season that we can beat a strong team as GCA and we will do our best to do that again tomorrow (today)," Trinidad said during a post-game interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"It will be a tough match. Power-wise, I guess we are even so it will just boils down to which team wants it (championship) more. They (Eagles) have been ruling the league in the past five years and we would like to earn the distinction of ending GCA's reign this year. Our players our motivated to stop GCA from taking its sixth straight title," Trinidad added.

GCA and MBA met twice this regular season and split those two games. The Stormz were runners-up to the Eagles with the former's 11-2 record. Their title match today will feature the duel in the frontline of MBA's Richard Park, Paul Carlo Samson and Charlie Jo and GCA's Dae Min Jeon, Brandon Chargualaf, and Luther Taylor.

MBA started the playoffs with a 25-9, 26-28, 15-8 victory over sister team MBA-B to advance to the semifinals against Mt. Carmel.

Mt. Carmel was seeded sixth in the playoffs with its 5-8 record and stunned the third-ranked Saipan International School-Blue (10-3) with a 26-24, 25-23 win in the quarterfinals. The Knights then failed to keep their momentum in yesterday's semifinals, bowing to MBA in straight sets in less than an hour.

GCA's first playoff game was against Northern Marianas Academy and the defending champion easily prevailed, 25-10, 25-14, while Calvary needed three sets to thwart SIS-Green, 25-23, 16-25, 15-10.

Calvary, which was ranked fourth in the playoffs with its 8-5 mark in the regular season, will gun for the third place trophy against Mt. Carmel in today's consolation game at 3:30pm.

COMPLETE

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liams, Gabriel White, the Sonics' Omar Ajoste, and former CNMI Nationals stalwart Dan Barcinas.

These 12 individuals attended the month-long course, which were divided into three sessions every week.

The course had more than 13 hours devoted to application and the rest focused on coaching principles and theories. It also covers administration, strategic planning, developing competition calendar, orientation on level coaching and refereeing, and introduction to mini basketball games and rules.

Omar said the clinic was worth it, as it was very educational and will help not only coaches, but most especially the players.

"I would like to thank BANMI for giving as this good opportunity. A lot of players want to play, but there are only a few coaches who have the knowledge and time to teach these players," Omar said.

"This clinic was very enriching, especially for young coaches like me. I just hope that my fellow coaches who received certification from BANMI will reach out to more kids and teach them the right way to play basketball," Omar added.

The coaching clinic is one of the several undertakings that BANMI have scheduled to promote the sport in the Commonwealth from the grassroots level up to the elite.

Last month, BANMI officials went to Rota to conduct a Level 0 coaching clinic and awarded certificates to six individuals.

Rangamar in an earlier interview said they are also planning to go to Tinian to conduct a similar clinic.

NMIFA

From Page 36

while the FIFA song is being played. Then selected players will carry the FIFA, EAFF, NMIFA, and CNMI flags. The ceremony will also feature inspirational speeches from guests of honor and recognition of outstanding players/teams.

In the morning games, the U6 division has scheduled nine matches and games will be a 5-a-side format.

Paire Black and Red, MP United White, Blue, and Silver, Matansa Green and Yellow, Tan Holdings FC, and Independents will have each match played in two eight-minute halves.

The U8 division will be a 7-a-side affair among the nine competing teams, namely Independents, Paire Red and White, MP United Silver, White, and Blue, Matanda Green and Yellow, and Tan Holdings. Each half in the games in the U10 age group will run for 10 minutes.

The U10 division will have the same format as the U8 age group and will feature players from Matansa Green, Yellow and Gold, Paired Red and Black, IFC Orange and Green, MP United White, and Tan Holdings.

In the boys' U13 division, only the Top 4 teams will vie for the championship, while the fifth to seventh ranked squads will play in the consolation round. The girls' U13 championship round featuring three teams will have a round-robin format.

Each match in the U13 division will be played in two 20-minute halves. A championship trophy will be awarded to winners in the boys' and girls' U13 divisions.

Entered in the boys' U13 division are Tan Holdings FC-1 and 2, MP United White and Blue, Paire, Matansa, and Independents. The girls' U13 division has only three teams in Paire, MP United, and Matansa.

BACK-TO-BACK

From Page 36

make it to the next round and the Celtics moved up to 10th place, one win behind ninth placer Rollers I (3-5). Ol'Aces occupy the No. 8 spot with a 2-4 mark.

Tim Taguchi led the Celtics' back-to-back victories, scoring 18 points, while James Webb chipped in 10.

The 18-and-under caging played two more games on Wednesday and it was a bad day for Rollers Basketball Club, as Young 670 Rollers and Rollers II also lost their matches.

The Chalan Kanoa Saints handed Young 670 Rollers their second straight defeat, following the former's 69-63 triumph.

The Saints took an early 34-23 halftime lead behind Luizi Reyes' 16 first-half points. Big men John Norita and Savali Talalemoto tried to bring Young 670 Rollers back into the game in the second half, but fell short, as Zack Tudela picked up from where Reyes left off. Tudela drilled eight of his 12 points in the second half, while Leo Galarse added seven of his 11 markers in that canto.

The Saints now have a 5-4 record, tying the Runnin' Rebels and Rollers II for fourth to sixth place in the team standings.

The Sixers hold the solo second spot behind the G-Stars (7-0), as the former improved to a 7-1 mark after a 66-51triumph over Rollers II.

A 31-15 lead in the first half gave the Sixers cushion en route to an easy victory.

First Game

Celtics 44 – T. Taguchi 18, Webb 10, Sablan 8, Nicholas 4, K. Taguchi 2, J. Villagomez 2.

Rollers I 36 – Wang 16, Williams 12, Babauta 4, Palacios 2, Suda 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-16, 44-36

Second Game

Saints 69 – L. Reyes 25, Tudela 12, Galarse 11, D. Reyes 7, Aulerio 6, Pangelinan 4, Iglesias 4.

Young 670 Rollers 63 – Talalemoto 25, Norita 16, Deleon Guerrero 9, Baka 4, Teregeyo 4, Cenir 3, Mariano 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-23, 69-63

Third Game

Sixers 66 – Ada 20, M. Duenas 10, Flores 6, Benavente 6, Duenas 6, R. Duenas 4, Manaluz 4, Pepito 4, Del Rosario 2, Salas 2, J. Duenas 2.

670 Rollers II 51 – Danas 19, Palacios 10, Brel 6, Deleon Guerrero 4, Laniyo 4, Ogo 3.

Scoring by halves: 31-15, 66-51.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	8	1	.889	—
Philadelphia	4	4	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	4	4	.500	3 1/2
New York	1	8	.111	7
New Jersey	0	8	.000	7 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	6	1	.857	—
Atlanta	6	2	.750	1/2
Orlando	6	3	.667	1
Charlotte	3	5	.375	3 1/2
Washington	2	6	.250	4 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	4	2	.667	—
Cleveland	5	3	.625	—
Chicago	4	4	.500	1
Detroit	4	4	.500	1
Indiana	3	3	.500	1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	5	3	.625	—
Houston	5	3	.625	—
San Antonio	4	3	.571	1/2
New Orleans	3	6	.333	2 1/2
Memphis	1	8	.111	4 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	6	3	.667	—
Portland	6	3	.667	—
Oklahoma City	4	4	.500	1 1/2
Utah	3	5	.375	2 1/2
Minnesota	1	8	.111	5

Pacific Division

Phoenix	8	1	.889	—
L.A. Lakers	6	1	.857	1
Sacramento	4	4	.500	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	3	6	.333	5
Golden State	2	5	.286	5

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 99, Chicago 89
Indiana 108, Golden State 94
Boston 105, Utah 86
Atlanta 114, New York 101
Philadelphia 82, New Jersey 79
Detroit 98, Charlotte 75
Milwaukee 108, Denver 102
Cleveland 102, Orlando 93
Portland 107, Minnesota 84
Houston 104, Memphis 79
San Antonio 92, Dallas 83
Phoenix 124, New Orleans 104
Oklahoma City 83, L.A. Clippers 79

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS, SCORES

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)–Sores Thursday from the Australian Masters, a $1.39 million PGA Tour of Australasia tournament at the par-72, 6,455-meter (7,059-yard) Kingston Heath Golf Club

First Round

Branden Grace, South Africa	32-34–66
Tiger Woods, United States	32-34–66
James Nitties, Australia	33-33–66
Cameron Percy, Australia	34-33–67
Doug Holloway, New Zealand	34-33–67
Greg Chalmers, Australia	34-34–68
Peter Nolan, Australia	34-34–68
Mathew Goggin, Australia	33-35–68
Lee Slattery, England	34-35–69
Damien Jordan, Australia	31-38–69
Rohan Blizard, Australia	34-35–69
Stuart Appleby, Australia	33-36–69
Rick Kulacz, Australia	36-33–69
Ashley Hall, Australia	33-36–69
Kurt Barnes, Australia	35-35–70
Craig Parry Australia	35-35–70
Michael Sim, Australia	35-35–70
Michael Curtain, Australia	32-38–70
Jason Dufner, United States	34-36–70
Ryan Haller, Australia	35-35–70
David McKenzie, Australia	35-35–70
Manny Villegas, Columbia	37-33–70
Ewan Porter, Australia	35-36–71
Matthew Griffin, Australia	35-36–71
Michael Long, New Zealand	35-36–71
Andrew Tampion, Australia	35-36–71
Richard Bland, England	35-36–71
Gary Murphy, Ireland	34-37–71
Andre Stolz, Australia	35-36–71
Seve Benson, England	35-36–71
Rod Pampling, Australia	36-35–71
Francois Delamontagne, France	35-36–71
Peter O'Malley, Australia	36-35–71
Steven Bowditch, Australia	35-36–71
Mahal Pearce, New Zealand	34-37–71
Craig Scott, Australia	34-37–71
Pelle Edberg, Sweden	35-36–71
Adam Scott, Australia	36-35–71
Klas Eriksson, Sweden	35-36–71
Wade Ormsby, Australia	34-37–71
Tim Wilkinson, New Zealand	37-34–71
Sam Little, England	37-34–71
Matthew Millar, Australia	36-35–71
Craig Spence, Australia	36-36–72
Steven Jones, Australia	38-34–72
Gareth Paddison, New Zealand	36-36–72
Alistair Presnell, Australia	38-34–72
Marc Leishman, Australia	38-34–72
Geoff Ogilvy, Australia	35-37–72
Josh Younger, Australia	34-38–72
Richard Green, Australia	35-37–72
Benn Barham, England	38-34–72
Michael Light, Australia	33-39–72
Anthony Brown, Australia	36-36–72
Scott Laycock, Australia	36-36–72
Adam Bland, Australia	33-39–72
Bernd Weisberger, Austria	36-36–72
Josh Geary, New Zealand	37-35–72
Terry Price, Australia	34-39–73
Alejandro Canizares, Spain	36-37–73
Sam Saunders, United States	39-34–73
Leigh McKechnie, Australia	37-36–73
Rodney Booth, Australia	34-39–73
Michael Wright, Australia	37-36–73
Andrew Bonhomme, Australia	36-37–73
Andrew Martin, Australia	36-37–73
Josh Carmichael, New Zealand	34-39–73
Jason Norris, Australia	37-36–73
Brad Andrews, Australia	35-38–73
Simon Furneaux, Australia	37-36–73
Aaron Baddeley, Australia	37-36–73
John Senden, Australia	35-38–73
Peter Wilson, Australia	37-36–73
Hamish Robertson, New Zealand	36-37–73
Adam Groom, Australia	38-35–73
Paul Sheehan, Australia	35-38–73
Todd Nicholson, New Zealand	37-36–73
Andrew Tschudin, Australia	35-38–73
Mark Purser, New Zealand	34-39–73
Brett Rumford, Australia	36-38–74
Brad Kennedy, Australia	36-38–74
Ed Stedman, Australia	37-37–74
Paul Waring, England	35-39–74
Paul Marantz, Australia	38-36–74
Rudi Bezuidenhout, Australia	39-35–74
Kurt Carlson, Australia	38-36–74
Michael Campbell, New Zealand	35-39–74
Marcus Fraser, Australia	37-37–74
Frank Power, Australia	38-36–74
Jarrod Moseley, Australia	34-40–74
a-Matthew Giles, Australia	38-36–74
Miles Tunnicliff, England	38-36–74
Tim Wise, Australia	38-36–74
Aaron Pike, Australia	36-38–74
Richard Moir, Australia	37-37–74
Terry Pilkadaris, Australia	38-37–75
Michael McGrath, Australia	35-40–75
Michael Brennan, Australia	37-38–75
Tim Wood, Australia	38-37–75
Chris Gaunt, Australia	39-36–75
Anthony Summers, Australia	37-38–75
Peter Cooke, Australia	38-37–75
Michael Hendry, New Zealand	36-39–75
Callum MacAulay, Scotland	38-37–75
Ryan Hammond, Australia	39-36–75
Andrew Pitt, Australia	38-37–75
Aaron Townsend, Australia	39-36–75
Adam Blyth, Australia	41-34–75
James Carr, Australia	36-39–75
Alex Cejka, Germany	38-38–76
Ben Bunny, Australia	38-38–76
Sam Brazel, Australia	36-40–76
Brad Shilton, New Zealand	38-38–76
Kim Felton, Australia	37-39–76
Martin Doyle, Australia	38-38–76
Adam Crawford, Australia	38-38–76
Stuart Bouvier, Australia	40-36–76
Marcus Cain, Australia	36-40–76
Brenden Stuart, New Zealand	39-37–76
Aaron Black, Australia	37-39–76
Adam Wilcox, Australia	37-40–77
Andrew Coltart, Scotland	38-39–77
Dean Kinney, Australia	38-39–77
Jens Nilsson, Sweden	40-37–77
Heath Reed, Australia	39-38–77
Michael Choi, Australia	39-39–78
Nicholas Cullen, Australia	41-37–78
Daniel Morrison, Australia	39-39–78
Kai McKay, Australia	39-39–78
Alessandro Tadini, Italy	38-40–78
Rory Hie, India	37-41–78
Chris Downes, Australia	40-39–79
Leighton Lyle, Australia	39-41–80
Steven O'Hara, Scotland	36-44–80
Ben Burge, Australia	39-41–80
Tom Prowse, Australia	40-40–80
Michael Moore, Australia	38-42–80
Nathan Uebergang, Australia	39-42–81
Brad Lamb, Australia	38-43–81
Richie Gallichan, Australia	39-42–81
Jared Pender, New Zealand	39-43–82
Grant Scott, Australia	39-43–82
Steven Jeppesen, Sweden	42-41–83
Mathew Holten, New Zealand	39-44–83

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	7	0
Sixers	7	1
Sonics	7	2
670 Rollers II	5	4
Runnin' Rebels	5	4
CK Saints	5	4
Sparks	4	2
Rollers I	3	5
Ol'Aces	2	4
Celtics	2	7
Young 670 Rollers 3	2	8
Hi-5	0	8

'The Hawk' soars in Top Pool 8-ball

Victor "The Hawk" Hocog outdueled Rolly Villanueva in the finals to win the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament held last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

Villanueva drew first blood in the championship as he beat winner's bracket topnotcher and erstwhile undefeated Hocog in Game 1 to force a second and deciding match.

Game 1 actually started with both finalists exchanging offensive salvos. Hocog had an opportunity to grab the weekly championship outright but missed on his last object ball.

Villanueva took full advantage after coming back from the dead, pocketing his final three object balls and the all-important 8-ball to take the first game.

It was a more heated match in Game 2, as Villanueva and Hocog all wound up with one object ball left. The former had the first chance to pocket his last ball but could not connect.

Villanueva's miss gave Hocog a chance to shoot his remaining object ball. He sank that and the succeeding 8-ball for his first championship of the year in the Saturday poolfest at Top Pool Bar.

The win was worth $55 for the affable Chamorro from Rota, while Villanueva, who works for Coco's Restaurant, earned $25.

A total of eight players took part in the weekend competition with Hocog advancing to the second round with a win over Luis Fajardo.

He was joined by Villanueva, who beat Zheng Jian Qing; Chester Hamoy, who defeated Dean Borja; and Juancho Mendoza, who upset Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu.

The second round then saw Villanueva upend Hamoy and Hocog get the better of Mendoza to set up their semi-final duel.

In the battle for the coveted twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, Villanueva broke first and pocketed four balls but could not sustain the effort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Victor "The Hawk" Hocog flashes the No. 1 sign after winning the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament last Saturday over Rolly Villanueva, right.

Hocog made the most of Villanueva's miss and proceeded to run all his object balls before pocketing the 8-ball to grab the first final slot.

In a series of elimination matches, Villanueva then topped Hamoy to take the second finals seat.

The Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament is held every Saturday and adopts a double-elimination format with a maximum of 16 players.

The entrance fee is $10 and the tournament uses the rules of the Billiards Congress of America. Practice is free between 7pm to 8pm on game day.

For more information on the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament, call manager Zheng Jian Qing at 287-7676. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Projects debut strong against Faatngali

A team from Kagman stole the show last Saturday in the 2009 World Organized Rocball Community League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

First-year team Projects played with a lot of cohesion in recording an impressive 65-31 victory over a veteran-laden Faatngali team.

Projects scored a total of four goals, 13 kees, and two aces while winning every set by comfortable margins of 16-9, 16-6, 16-4, and 18-12 in a juice out victory.

The game's heavy hitter was Projects' Josh Jones with two goals and five kees. Teammate Bofan Cabrera also scored two goals and two more kees.

Fanians 58, One Way 49

In a game between veteran teams, Fanians juiced out One Way in four sets, 58-49.

Fanians handily won the first set, 15-9. One Way, however, came back in the second and third sets, beating Fanians in a dogfight, 15-13 and 16-13.

After the third set, the score was Fanians, 41; One Way, 40.

Fanians then came out strong and overwhelmed One Way with a 17-9 victory in the fourth set to juice out with a 58-49 win. The game's heavy hitter was Fanians' Typhoon Saito with four aces and two kees.

Soul Rebels 53, No Mercy 44

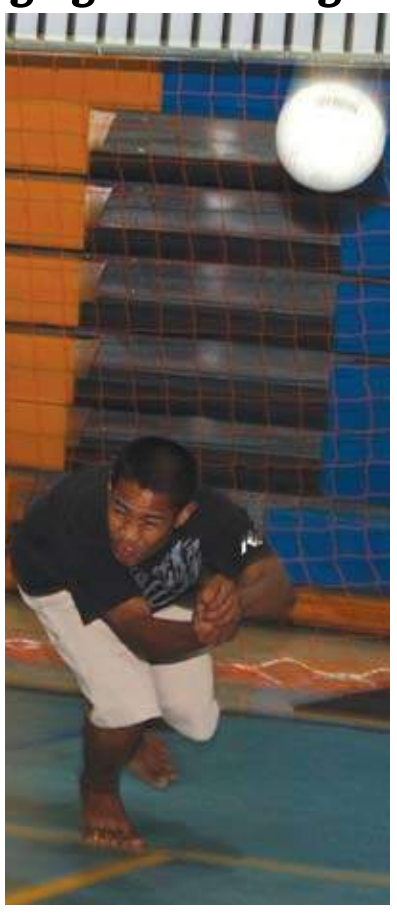
Soul Rebels dominated three out of the four sets in its juice out 53-44 victory over No Mercy.

No Mercy played their best in the third set when it slammed Soul Rebels, 16-3. In the fourth set, Soul Rebels took an early lead 8-0 lead, but No Mercy fought back and made Soul Rebels sweat for its 15-10 win that completed its juice out victiry.

No Mercy's Myron Laniyo was the game's heavy hitter with two aces, a xunk, and three kees for 12 points. There were two goals scored, one by each team.

Islanders beat Ghasias Brothers, 2OT

Islanders needed two overtimes to rid themselves of pesky many time champion Ghasias Brothers.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 2009 World Organized Rocball Community League continue last weekend at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Islanders actually dominated Ghasias Brothers in the first three sets, winning 18-17, 17-14, and 16-6 for a 51-37 lead going into the fourth set. All Islanders had to do to win the game was to take the fourth set.

But the Ben Pelisamen-led Ghasias Brothers would not take the losing that easily and prevented Islanders from juicing out with a 15-11 win in the fourth set.

Forced to go to extra sets, Islanders were again foiled in the first overtime when Pelisamen connected on his third goal of the game.

The shocked Islanders then worked double time in the second extension as they tightened up their defense and prevented Pelisamen from drilling a fourth goal. With their main nemesis bottled up, Islanders recorded a 10-5 win in the second overtime to escape with the victory.

Not surprisingly Pelisamen wound up as the game's heavy hitter with an ace, seven kees, and three goals for 25 points. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Voyagers retain lead in 8-ball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jonny's IT&E Voyagers swept their games on Tuesday to keep the lead in the Agingan division of the 2009 SBA Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

The Voyagers blanked VFW, 7-0, in Week 13 to improve to a 73-18 record and take a four-win lead over rival Utopia NTT Docomo Hustlers.

The Hustlers recorded a 5-2 triumph against D'Pirates 8 Ballers to remain in second place in the five-team field with their 69-22 slate.

D'Pirates Huwa and Jonny's Home Boys had similar 5-2 victories against Round Perfect Spotters and USSP Watever, respectively, to occupy the No. 3 and 4 spots in the team standings in the Agingan division. D'Pirates Huwa holds a 54-47 mark against Home Boys' 45-46 record.

Round Two Perfect Spotters' loss in Week 13 kept the team at the bottom of the team standings with their 43-48 slate.

The Obyan division has a new leader in Wild Bill's Shark Attack, which nailed a 5-2 win over erstwhile leader USSP Fotten Palau.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Joey Dela Cruz of D' Pirates Huwa prepares to break during their game against Wild Bill's Shark Attack on Tuesday at the Wild Bill's Bar & Grill.

Wild Bill's Shark Attack has a 44-47 record against Fotten Palau's 39-52 mark. Just a win behind USSP Fotten Palau was USSP Watever, which holds a 38-53 record.

D'Pirates Ballers and VFW Sentinel, which both dropped their Week 13 matches, are in fourth and last places with their 32-59 and 18-73 marks, respectively.

Week 13 games had John Mongami making three 8-ball on the break and Marlito Baisaule, Chester Hamoy, Jojo Talibong, and James Wabinga having one.

Nolan Cultura and Jerry Soriano had the most run the rack with six apiece, while Patrick Taitano, Erwin Gomez, Hamoy, and Talibong made two each.

SGA Nov. Ace, Turkey Shootout Sunday

Saipan Golfers Association will be holding its November Ace/2008 Annual Turkey Shootout Tournament this Sunday at Kingfisher Golf Links.

Tee-time is at 9:30am, while check-in is an hour earlier.

Cash prizes await the Top 3 finishers of the weekend event, while each participant will receive an uncooked turkey.

Joe Demapan won last year's November Ace/Turkey Shootout event after carding a net 60. The 13-handicapper Demapan had the second best gross score in the tournament last year at Coral Ocean Point, firing a 1-over par 73. Former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan recorded the lowest gross in the event, drilling an even par 72.

A good start put Demapan in a position to take the November Ace as he drilled an even par 36 on the front nine before slowing down a bit on the back nine with a 1-over par 37. He prevailed by only a stroke against Martin Sablan, a 26-handicapper who recorded a 44 and 43 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a net 61 and gross 87.

Finishing third was the 17-handicapper Frank Rosario, who tallied a net 67 after shooting a 40 on the front and 44 on the back for a gross 84.

For more information about SGA tournaments, contact Larry Guerrero at 256-1052. ***(PR)***

LeBron, Shaq help Cavs to 102-93 win over Magic

LeBron James scored 36 points, Shaquille O'Neal provided an inside presence and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Orlando Magic 102-93 on Wednesday night in a rematch of the Eastern Conference finals. 32

'The Hawk' soars in Top Pool 8-ball

Victor "The Hawk" Hocog outdueled Rolly Villanueva in the finals to win the Top Pool Bar 8-Ball Billiards Tournament held last Saturday at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole. 35

GCA to defend title vs MBA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

There will be no rematch between Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel School in the high school division finals of the 2009-2010 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Volleyball League.

This after Marianas Baptist Academy-A crushed the MCS Knights' hopes for a return trip to the finals via an impressive 25-7, 25-8 victory in their semifinals game yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. In the first semis game, the GCA Eagles swept Calvary Christian Academy, 25-21, 25-27, to advance to the finals.

The GCA-MBA title showdown will be played today at 4:30pm with the Eagles gunning for an unprecedented sixth straight championship.

Having won the last five editions of the annual league and topping this year's regular season with a 12-2 record, the Eagles are slightly favored in today's finals.

"Our chances of defending our title this year is pretty much strong as we have experienced players and good teamwork. However, we can't be too confident as games in the playoffs, especially in the championship, can be very intense and are played at a very high level that no one can be considered as a favorite once you're on the court," GCA coach Becky Covarrubias said.

"If we continue to play smart and show teamwork,

See GCA on Page 34

Marianas Baptist Academy-A' s Richard Park returns to MBA-B during their playoff game on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. MBA-A will challenge Grace Christian Academy in today's high school division finals in the private school volleyball league.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMIFA holds fall youth football festival tomorrow

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will culminate the 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League with a festival tomorrow, featuring games in all four age groups from 8am to 5:30pm.

The whole-day affair will have all five football clubs on Saipan gather in one pitch, the Hopwood Junior High School Field, trade football tricks, show sportsmanship, and battle for supremacy in the youth league.

Matches in the co-ed U6, U8, and U10 age groups will start as early as 8am, while games in the boys and girls U13 will be played in the afternoon after the traditional opening ceremony at 12pm.

The opening ceremony will have players in all age groups parading

See NMIFA on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tan Holdings FC-2 player goes for a header during their game against Independents in the boys' U13 division of the NMIFA league last month at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

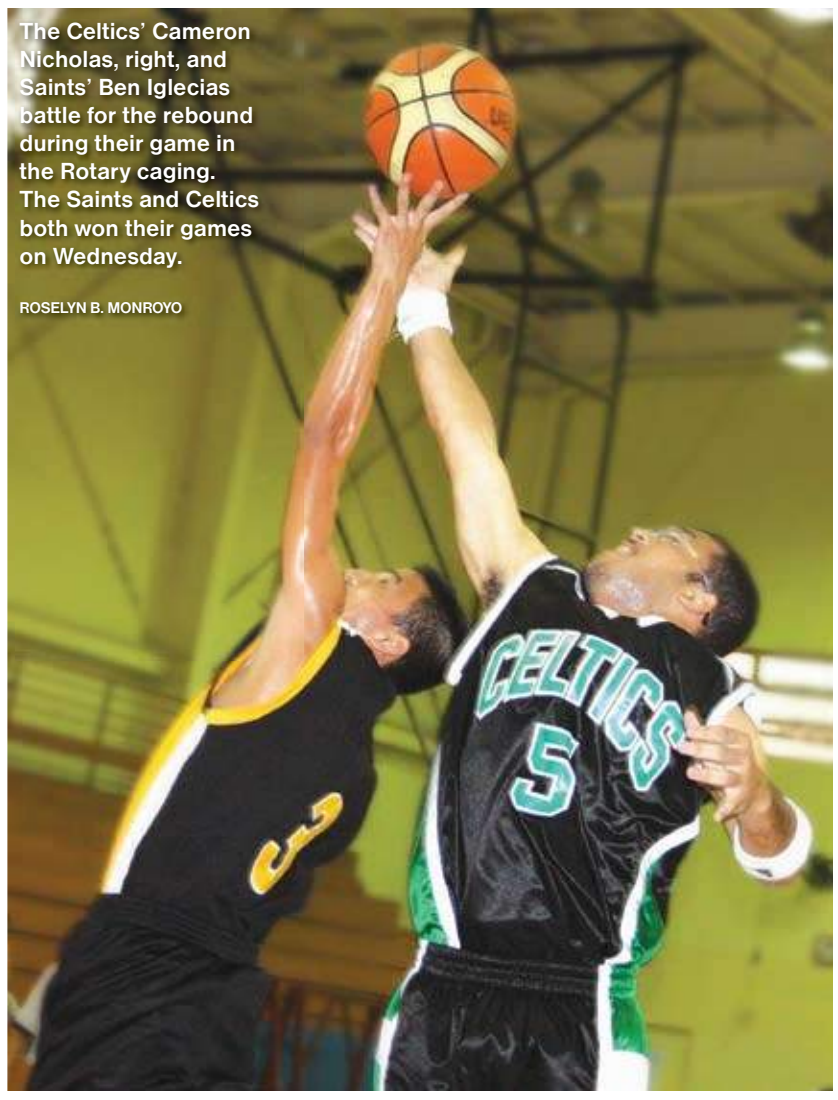
Back-to-back wins for Celtics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Celtics kept their playoff bid alive after beating Rollers I, 44-36, during their game in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the second in a row for Celtics, who dropped their first seven games, but now have improved to a 2-7 slate to boost their chances for the playoffs. Only the Top 8 teams will

See BACK-TO-BACK on Page 34



The Celtics' Cameron Nicholas, right, and Saints' Ben Iglecias battle for the rebound during their game in the Rotary caging. The Saints and Celtics both won their games on Wednesday.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

12 complete Level 1 coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands handed certificates to 12 individuals for successfully completing the Level 1 coaching course on Wednesday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Receiving their certificates upon completion of the 23-hour course were Hopwood Junior High School's Felisha Brel and Vanessa Mobel, Lerins Tamtreng, Runnin' Rebels Tyrone Omar, Dominic Joseph Omar Tudela, Sylvan Luis Rangamar, San Antonio Elementary School's Ron Olopai, Epi Cabrera, Timothy Wil-

See COMPLETE on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands Level 1 coaching course pose after the completion of their lessons Wednesday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.